

New fighting erupts in Beirut

BEIRUT (AP) — Rival militiamen fought sporadic gunbattles in and around Beirut on Saturday, shattering a lull that has accompanied Syria's two-month-old initiative to end Lebanon's 10-year-old civil war. Police said four civilians were killed and 12 people, including a Lebanese army soldier, were wounded in the battles which erupted Friday night and raged intermittently through the day along Beirut's dividing green line. Most of the casualties were in the Nabaa and Bourj Hammoud neighbourhoods of east Beirut which were hit by a random shellfire, police said. Units of the Lebanese army also fought pitched battles with militiamen in bluffs east of Beirut, police said. No casualties were reported in the mountain exchanges which centred around the army's strategic garrison of Souk Al Gharb. The onetime mountain resort commands the roads leading to President Amin Gemayel's palace in east Beirut.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Arab Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرباطية

Iraq assails Arab reaction to raid

BAGHDAD (R) — An Iraqi official on Saturday criticised Arab countries for their failure to retaliate after Israel's raid on Tunis headquarters of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on Oct. 1. Saadoun Hamadi, speaker of Iraq's National Assembly, told a meeting of parliamentarians from 12 Arab states and the Palestine National Council (parliament-in-exile) that the raid was "an insult to the Arab Nation." The parliamentarians are here to discuss the Israeli attack, in which at least 70 people were killed, and last month's hijacking by U.S. warplanes of an Egyptian airliner. "Failing to react will encourage the Zionist entity and the United States to continue their aggression and freely play with our fates," Mr. Hamadi said in his opening speech. He said: "The Zionist entity wants to prove to the whole world that the Arabs are unable to deter it and that it can attack them anywhere with the support of the United States."

Volume 11 Number 3023

AMMAN, SUNDAY NOVEMBER 17, 1985, RABIA AL AWWAL 3, 1406

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

King praises Public Security staff

AABA (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday reiterated his appreciation to the Public Security staff and praised their role in providing security and stability for the citizens throughout the Kingdom. During a meeting with Public Security Director Lieutenant General Abdul Hadi Al Majali at the Royal Palace in Amman, the King asked Lt. Gen. Majali to convey his greetings to all members of the Public Security Department staff. Lt. Gen. Majali called at the Royal Palace to present King Hussein with a token gift from the Public Security staff on the occasion of the King's 50th birthday (See page 3).

Lebanese commandos capture 15 pro-Israelis

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese commandos captured 15 pro-Israeli militiamen when they stormed a stronghold near the Israeli border Friday night. Beirut Radio said Saturday: "It said national resistance fighters took the stronghold in the village of Kounein after a two-hour battle, seizing eight men of the Israeli-formed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia and seven pro-Israeli village militiamen. Kounein is eight kilometres from the Israeli border and deep inside a 'security zone' set up by Israel and policed by pro-Israeli Lebanese militiamen and about 1,000 Israeli plainclothes agents and soldiers."

Gratz arrives in S. Arabia

BAHRAIN (R) — Austrian Foreign Affairs Minister Leopold Gratz has arrived in Saudi Arabia for talks on the Middle East and international issues with Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal, the Saudi Press Agency reported Saturday. Mr. Gratz arrived Friday night and will go on to Muscat to attend Monday's celebrations marking the 15th anniversary of the accession of Sultan Jabous Ibn Sa'id as ruler of Oman.

U.S. bans import of Libyan oil

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States has imposed a ban on imports of Libyan petroleum products. A statement issued by the White House said Friday that by the authority vested in him by the U.S. constitution, President Ronald Reagan imposed the ban.

Gandhi, Zia to meet in Oman

NEW DELHI (AP) — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi is likely to meet with Pakistani President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq when the two leaders attend National Day celebrations in Oman, the Pakistan finance minister said Saturday. "They are likely to meet in Oman in the next two or three days and again at a South Asian conference in December," Mahbub Ul Haq, minister for finance and economic affairs, told a news conference.

King, Evren call for increased efforts to end Iran-Iraq war

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

AQABA — His Majesty King Hussein and Turkish President Kenan Evren held talks on Saturday on the five-year-old Iran-Iraq war and ways to end the war and efforts for a just and durable solution to the Palestinian problem.

The Jordanian news agency, Petra, said the King and General Evren voiced concern over the continuing Gulf war and called for increased efforts to find a peaceful settlement to the war. The King briefed Gen. Evren on his way back to Turkey after visits to the United Arab Emirates and Pakistan, on the Feb. 11 agreement between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the Turkish leader voiced his country's support for Jordan's efforts to find a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, the news agency quoted a Royal Court spokesman as saying. The King and Gen. Evren also discussed the issue of ethnic Tur-

kish Muslims living in Bulgaria and their living conditions there, Petra said. The King expressed support for Turkey's efforts to seek a solution to the problem through direct negotiations with Sofia, Petra said. Attending the King's talks with Gen. Evren were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Foreign Minister Taher Masri and Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker. Turkey's minister of state for foreign affairs also attended the talks. Gen. Evren left Aqaba for home after his talks with the King. King Hussein, Crown Prince Hassan, Gen. Sharif Zaid, Mr.

Masri, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khatib, Ma'an Governor Hashem Abu Abboud, Aqaba Regional Authority officials and senior government officials and the Turkish ambassador to Jordan bade farewell to Gen. Evren upon his departure. Earlier on Saturday, Gen. Evren paid a brief visit to Muscat where he congratulated Sultan Jabous Ibn Sa'id of Oman on the occasion of the Sultanate's National Day.

Gen. Evren's visit to Pakistan was marked by agreement on all major issues with his host, President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq. A joint communique said the two leaders, both military men guiding their countries from martial law to civilian rule, had identical views on bilateral, regional and international issues they discussed. The communique called for a political settlement to the six-year war in Afghanistan and withdrawal of Soviet troops there. In a speech to the Pakistani parliament in Islamabad on Friday, Gen. Evren called for greater unity among Islamic countries.

King and Arafat hold talks on future joint peace moves

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday conferred with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat on future joint Jordanian-Palestinian moves in efforts for peace in the Middle East, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said.

Petra did not give details on the topics discussed during the meeting, the first formal talks between the King and Mr. Arafat after the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) announced in Cairo last week his denunciation of all guerrilla attacks outside the Israeli-occupied territories.

Mr. Arafat's Cairo Declaration "is seen as a major step



His Majesty King Hussein receives Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat on Saturday in a meeting attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al-Jassam and Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker (Petra photo).

towards restoring the PLO's international image as a peacekeeper in the Middle East. Petra said the King's meeting

with Mr. Arafat on Saturday was attended by His Royal Highness

(Continued on page 3)

Waite says meeting with kidnappers is arranged

BEIRUT (AP) — Terry Waite, the archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy seeking to free American hostages held in Lebanon, said on Saturday he has arranged to meet "face to face" with the captors, but did not say when.

But Mr. Waite disclosed in a statement that he rejected the initial offer to meet the kidnappers who contacted him "until I could be reasonably certain that I was dealing with the right people."

He added: "I put certain questions to my contact which could only be answered by one of the hostages."

"When the correct answer was received, I determined that the risk associated with a face-to-face meeting could be taken at some point."

Mr. Waite did not say what the question or answer was, or which hostage provided the answer. But the reply was apparently passed on by the unidentified contact.

Mr. Waite announced the breakthrough in the long-running hostage drama on the fourth day of his one-man mission to secure the hostages' release.

He flew to Beirut after a letter signed by four of the six missing Americans was sent to the archbishop of Canterbury, Robert Runcie, eight days ago. Mr. Waite issued the statement through a Western news agency in Beirut by telephone from his hideout in the city's Western sector. He is conducting the secret negotiations from there.

New volcano eruptions, disease threaten Colombia

ARMERO, Colombia (Agencies) — Thousands of Colombians fled in panic on Saturday fearing another eruption of the killer volcano Nevado del Ruiz and government officials warned survivors that they faced a new threat from disease.

Bloated bodies decomposing in the thick grey mud covering this town 170 kilometres west of Bogota caused acute hazards of yellow fever, respiratory infections and gastro-enteritis, Health Minister Rafael de Subira said Friday night.

The Nevado del Ruiz volcano erupted in a shower of ash and lava on Wednesday, melting its ice cap and sending a torrent of mud and rock surging down its eastern flank. Some 21,000 people died in the ensuing chaos.

A river, now an eerie ocean of sludge, was wiped out. Injured and fearful survivors are being ferried out to Bogota by light planes and helicopters as roads in the region are impassable.

Thousands of people evacuated towns on the volcano's western slope around Chinchina after official warnings of fresh floods and landslides. More than 1,000 people were killed in Chinchina, a coffee-growing centre, as a result of Wednesday's eruption.

Similar warnings went unheeded in Armero as the volcano began rumbling at the beginning of the week.

Much of the snow that had capped the mountain was swept away by the avalanche. The mud cut a grey swath down the forested lower slopes of the mountain before snaking into the valley. Through gaps in low-lying clo-

uds, much of the valley had a strangely peaceful look Friday and many farm houses seemed untouched by the destruction, according to an AP reporter who flew over the place.

But where the river of mud tore down the slopes and through the valley, the scene was one of desolation and destruction.

In place of the prosperous farming community of Armero, a gleaming grey-brown sea of mud spread over the landscape.

As panic spread with rumours of a new eruption Friday night, hundreds of people fled from Ceride, a village to the south of the mountain.

A statement from the Health Ministry said more than 21,000 people died after the eruption, nearly 20,000 were made homeless and 2,453 were injured. It was the worst volcanic disaster this century since Martinique in 1902 when more than 29,000 died.

Hundreds of Armero residents who survived the destruction of their town camped on hillslopes for a third night, choosing to stay behind in a painful search for their loved ones.

One woman, covered with mud and semi-conscious when rescued, gave birth to a healthy baby despite her exhaustion, rescue workers said.

U.S. helicopters brought tents and medical supplies from the U.S. armed forces southern command in Panama.

But despite foreign aid and intensive Colombian efforts, the thick mud slowed rescue work. Food, medicine and drinking water were in short supply.



His Majesty King Hussein and Turkish President Kenan Evren inspect a guard of honour mounted at Aqaba on Saturday on the occasion of the Turkish leader's brief visit (Petra photo).

Egypt urges Reagan, Gorbachev to tackle Mideast in Geneva talks

CAIRO (Agencies) — Foreign Minister Ismat Abdul Meguid on Saturday urged the United States and the Soviet Union to reach an understanding which would stimulate Middle East peace moves at their summit meeting in Geneva next week.

"I hope the two giants will reach a formula of understanding which would benefit a solution to the problem... because more delay creates more tension and instability in the region," Mr. Abdul Meguid told Reuters.

He said President Hosni Mubarak had sent separate letters to President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev urging them to take the Middle East problem into consideration during their talks.

The letter also reaffirmed the need to convene an international Middle East peace conference involving all parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the Pal-

estine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The United States is cool to the idea of an international peace conference because it does not want the Soviet Union to participate until Moscow resumes diplomatic relations with Israel. The U.S. administration also has said it will not negotiate with the PLO until it recognises Israel.

Mr. Reagan and Mr. Gorbachev are expected to discuss regional conflicts in their meetings in Geneva on Tuesday and Wednesday. Recent reports have said that the Soviet Union was planning the Middle East problem in the agenda for the summit talks.

In Washington on Friday, State Department spokesman Bernard Kalb told reporters that assistant secretaries of state for the various geographic regional areas will be in Geneva for the Reagan-Gorbachev meeting.

The will be there along with Secretary of State George Shultz "for any required consultations and follow-up," Kalb explained. "They will subsequently be in a position to provide the leaders of states in their regions with an authoritative assessment of the meeting in Geneva and the results of that meeting."

He said it was expected that the assistant secretaries might visit their geographic areas following the Geneva meeting but emphasised he could not say which ones would be travelling or when.

Kalb had no specific comment to offer when asked about a communique issued following a visit to Syria by Jordanian Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai. The communique rejected partial or separate solutions to the Arab-Israeli conflict and voiced opposition to direct negotiations with Israel.

"We have seen the communique, as it has been reported

(Continued on page 3)

Riyadh summit invitations still stand, Saud says

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal was quoted on Saturday as saying his country still planned to host an Arab summit, but results of efforts to heal rifts in Arab ranks would first have to be evaluated.

Interviewed by Al Rai Al Aam newspaper, Prince Saud gave no possible date for the planned summit. There has been speculation a long-delayed meeting scheduled for Riyadh would again be postponed because of differences between some Arab League members.

An emergency summit in Morocco in September, boycotted by countries including Syria, Libya and Lebanon, set up committees to try to heal rifts between members, including Syrian differences with Jordan and Iraq.

Prince Saud said the Gulf Arab states were doing their best to halt the Iran-Iraq war, now in its sixth year. Iraq had responded positively to attempts to negotiate peace, but Iran stood by its previous demands, Al Rai Al Aam quoted him as saying.

Iran insists that the Iraqi government be ousted and wants billions of dollars war reparations.

Al Rai Al Aam said on Thursday that Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Yousef Ibn Alawi, would visit Iran next week as part of a new bid by the Gulf states to end the war (See page 2).

In Rabat, an Arab committee trying to heal Libyan differences with Iraq and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) went into a fourth round of talks on Saturday on progress of the mission, officials said.

No word has emerged of three meetings since Thursday night of the committee, comprising Morocco's King Hassan, President Maouya Ould Taya of Mauritania and Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahayan of the United Arab Emirates.

Tafleeh becomes governorate

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet held an ordinary session on Saturday under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai and approved a draft law regulating preaching, guidance and sermon in mosques and decided to upgrade the district of Tafleeh as governorate.

At the beginning of Saturday's session, Mr. Rifai briefed the Cabinet members on his recent visit to Damascus on Nov. 12 and 13 and the outcome of his talks with the Syrian officials covering the general situation in the region and the bilateral relations.

The Cabinet also approved the draft law on preaching, guidance and sermons and decided to refer it to Parliament for debate.

It also approved amendments to the administrative divisions regulation. The amendments include the following:

Creating a new governorate in Tafleeh, upgrading the Naour division to a sub-district, upgrading Taybeh division in Irbid Governorate to a sub-district and creating a division in Um Al Basatin in the outskirts of Amman. It also decided to create a division in Al Wasatiah in Irbid Governorate and a division in 'Eil in Ma'an Governorate.

The Cabinet also decided to create a number of municipalities in Soma Al Roussan, Tibnah, Abu Nuseir, Kafaraba, Al Jadidiah, Gharadiah, Hossainieh, Boyadiah, and Al Za'atari.

The Cabinet decision to upgrade the status of Tafleeh and other areas comes in line with a pledge by His Majesty King Hussein to give increased attention to outlying regions and development of the rural regions.

In line with the King's directives, the Cabinet last month upgraded Zarqa district to governorate and a number of sub-districts and divisions to districts and sub-districts respectively.

Reagan heads for Geneva amid new Soviet criticism of SDI

WASHINGTON (R) — President Ronald Reagan left on Saturday for a historic summit meeting with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev which he hopes will help chart a course for a new relationship between the superpowers.

In two days of talks in Geneva, Mr. Reagan, 74, and Mr. Gorbachev, 54, will review all aspects of the relationship — arms control, human rights, regional conflicts and bilateral issues.

An agreement on cultural exchanges is expected to be one of several relatively minor bilateral accords to emerge from the summit.

The Soviet Union on Saturday unleashed fresh attacks on Washington's "Star Wars" space-based defence programme three days before the Geneva summit, with Pravda saying it was designed to further U.S. imperial pretensions.

The article in the Communist Party's daily newspaper was one of the most virulent yet on the U.S. approach to the meeting on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Pravda said the strategic defence initiative (SDI), as the "Star Wars" plan for space-based anti-missile weapons is formerly

called, was not defensive.

"No, the United States is not spending billions of dollars, wasting huge intellectual resources, to prepare 'Star Wars' for the sake of ridding the world of nuclear arms and strengthening strategic stability," Pravda said.

"Star Wars remains 'wars' and is being prepared by the United States to achieve its imperial claims on the earth," the paper added.

Despite the Pravda attack, American officials felt Mr. Gorbachev was eager for a lessening of tension so he could focus on plans for economic reform in his country.

They also said Mr. Reagan was entering the summit from a position of strength by virtue of his landslide election victory a year ago, his high standing in public opinion polls and the big U.S. arms buildup launched during his presidency.

For Mr. Reagan the meeting with Mr. Gorbachev might prove a test of his much vaunted powers as a communicator.

Tanker hit in Iraqi attack

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — An oil tanker was set ablaze in an Iraqi missile attack in the Gulf on Saturday and a bulk carrier freighter was seized by unidentified helicopter-borne commandos, shipping executives said Saturday.

The crew of the tanker Koncar abandoned ship after it was hit and set ablaze by an Iraqi missile, shipping sources quoted by Reuters said.

The report came as Iraq said its warplanes hit two vessels near the Iranian coast, and mounted another attack on Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal in the northern Gulf — the 39th since mid-August.

The shipping sources said the crew of the tanker Koncar, which they believed was Maltese-registered, took to lifeboats after the attack, in which the vessel was hit by a missile in the forepeak and set ablaze.

But the captain, who remained aboard with a radio officer, later reported that the fire was out and the crew might reboard if the ship

appeared safe, they said, adding there were no casualties.

The ship was 130 kilometres from Kharg and 80 kilometres south of the Iranian port of Bushire, they added.

There was no immediate word of an attack on a second vessel, they said.

The Koncar, carrying more than 60,000 tonnes of crude, was shuttling oil from the Kharg to a makeshift terminal further south at Sirri Island when it was hit off the Iranian port of Bushire at about 10:30 a.m. (0730 GMT), the sources said.

The British bulk carrier London Team was seized by unidentified helicopter-borne commandos in the Gulf waters off the coast of Dubai near the Straits of Hormuz on Saturday, Bahrain-based marine salvage executives reported.

Two helicopters descended on the London Team near Dubai, said one maritime salvage agent here. "Seven men alighted from the helicopters and diverted the

ship to an unknown destination," the agent told the AP.

He said that a distress signal had been received from the 104,850-ton vessel, which was on its way to the U.S.

Other maritime shipping sources said that the London Team was "attacked in the Hormuz."

The Iranian navy has been operating in the Gulf, intercepting cargo ships bound for Arab Gulf ports, charging that the vessels carried military cargo for Iraq. But it was not known whether Saturday's incident involved Iran.

Conflicting reports came later on Saturday on the British ship. Reuters said two squads of seven Iranian commandos in dinghies chased the British tanker near the entrance to the Gulf.

Quoting shipping sources, Reuters said the commandos abandoned the chase and the captain of the 56,273 gross ton vessel, carrying a full load of oil, radioed that it was proceeding normally.

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Emirates press hails relations with Soviets

ABU DHABI (R) — The local press Saturday hailed the United Arab Emirates' (UAE) decision to establish full diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union, saying the move could further the cause of peace in the Middle East.

Local newspapers, which often reflect official government thinking, said greater contacts with Moscow could encourage it to use its weight to solve regional problems, including the Iran-Iraq war.

The UAE became the second Gulf Arab state in two months to establish diplomatic relations with Moscow, after Oman paved the way in September. Kuwait already had such ties.

Diplomatic sources said Saturday the UAE's appointment last month to the United Nations Security Council, in which the Soviet Union is one of five permanent members, was a crucial factor in the UAE announcement Friday.

The Sharjah daily Al Khaleej said the new ties gave a "big moral boost to the UAE's network of international relations" and would help it serve Arab causes.

The paper noted the announcement came only days before U.S. and Soviet leaders are due to meet in Geneva, with the Middle East conflict expected to be on their summit agenda.

"It is natural to deal with the Soviet Union in accordance with its international weight," said Al Bayan of Dubai. "Moscow has the power to ensure, along with others, the continuation of security in the Gulf and its distance from foreign struggles, and to end the Iran-Iraq war and prevent its spread."

Diplomats say the UAE, despite close ties with other states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) — Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia — apparently made its decision independently. Saudi Arabia, the largest of the GCC states, has no

immediate plans to set up ties with Moscow, diplomats in the region say.

Al Khaleej lauded what it called "the independence of the Emirates' political decisions" and said ties with Moscow would be welcomed by ordinary UAE citizens "who feel that balance in their country's international relations will bring more stability to their country."

The English-language Gulf News said ties with Moscow could help overcome differences between the two nations on the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan and the status of Soviet Muslims.

"Maintaining an efficient channel of communication has been found to be as important and useful where there are striking inter-state differences as where there are none," it added.

The UAE has become the second Arab Gulf state in two months to establish diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union, boosting Moscow's profile in the Gulf region.

UAE sources said the agreement was reached during recent talks in Abu Dhabi between a Soviet envoy and UAE officials.

UAE Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Sheikh Hamdan bin Zaid Al Nahyan, said in a statement that the move expressed his country's non-aligned policy and pursuit of friendly relations with all peoples.

Sheikh Hamdan said the process of establishing diplomatic ties began in 1971 when UAE and Soviet leaders exchanged cables shortly after the seven-emirate federation was founded.

Diplomats said the UAE may have been motivated by a desire to

see more balanced relations between the superpowers at a time when there was growing talk of a Soviet role in the Middle East peace process through an international conference.

The UAE newspaper Al Khaleej asked earlier this week why the UAE had relations with the Americans — hackers of what the paper called Israeli aggression — and none with the Kremlin, a long-standing friend of the Arab cause. "Is the Gulf region a private preserve of the United States?" it asked.

Diplomats said Oman had made it easier for Abu Dhabi to act, although its decision was apparently taken independently of other countries in the region.

The first UAE trade delegation to visit the Soviet Union arrived in Moscow Friday to seek to expand economic ties. UAE imports from the Soviet Union were less than three million dollars last year.

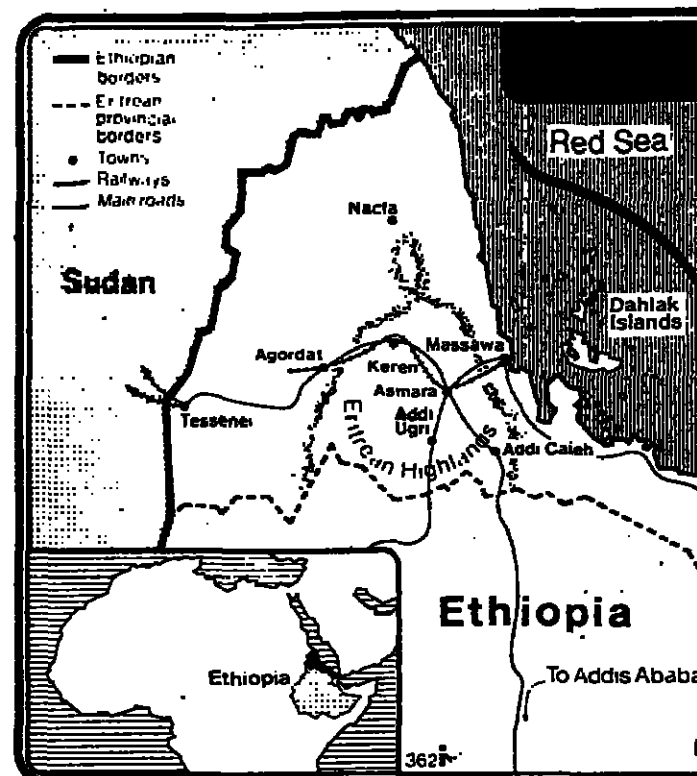
Meanwhile, Chinese Vice Premier Yao Yilin was Saturday quoted as saying China supported the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and was ready for diplomatic ties with more of its members.

"We back every regional group that seeks to be self-reliant and independent," he said in an interview with the newspaper Al Ittihad.

Only Oman, the UAE and Kuwait from the six-nation GCC have diplomatic ties with Peking. "We are prepared to establish diplomatic ties with all of them once they express their willingness to do so," Mr. Yao said.

He is in the UAE on a Gulf tour that takes him to Oman Sunday and Kuwait later this week.

Mr. Yao, who last Thursday signed an economic cooperation pact with the UAE, Saturday met Abu Dhabi National Oil Company Chairman Sheikh Tahoun bin Mohammed, the Emirates News Agency WAM said. Oil has been cited as an area in which China wants to benefit from UAE financing and experience.



Ethiopia launches 2nd offensive in Eritrea

KHARTOUM (R) — Ethiopian government forces have launched their second offensive in five weeks against Eritrean guerrillas in a drive to follow up big territorial gains they made last month, sources close to the Eritrean guerrilla movement said.

In the first offensive which began on Oct. 10, Ethiopian troops swept across the plain north of Barentu and Tessenetie towns and recaptured the Red Sea coastline between the Sudanese border and the port of Merka Tekla. The sources said.

Their goal in a second attack which started on a week ago appeared to be to penetrate into the northern heartland held by the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) since before 1977, the sources added.

(News of the latest offensive was delayed by a strike by communications workers in Sudan, which has cut off telephone and telex links with the outside world).

The sources minimised EPLF losses, saying the guerrillas withdrew from the Gash Plain into the northern mountains before government troops were in full control of the area.

The rebels took with them large quantities of weapons, including tanks, captured in Barentu last July, the sources said.

Tehran welcomes GCC moves to improve ties

LONDON (R) — Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati Saturday welcomed moves by Gulf Arab countries to improve relations with Iran and said Tehran would reciprocate.

"Iran has consistently sought peaceful coexistence and friendly relations with its neighbours," the National News Agency IRNA, received in London, quoted him as saying before leaving for visits to Syria, Libya and Algeria.

"Some countries which used to

support Iraq in its war against Iran are now convinced that Iran is sincere in its desire to have friendly relations with its neighbours," he added.

Heads of state of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), who met in Muscat two weeks ago, agreed to try to improve ties with Tehran in an attempt to contain the war between Iran and Iraq.

The GCC, which groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Oman.

The continued occupation of Palestine by the Israelis," Alderman Kelly said, "translates to the oppression of the Palestinians. We need justice, fairness and human rights on the West Bank."

The Palestinians were also upmost in the mind of Ambassador Clovis Malsoud, permanent observer to the United Nations and chief representative to the United States for the League of Arab States.

"This is a moment," Mr. Malsoud said, "when Palestinian nationalists should be reaffirmed to provide the unity that the Zionists are trying to destroy. Let there be self-criticism, but not self-destructiveness — the enemies of the Palestinians and the Arabs are waiting for a haemorrhage of our will." He added: "We are not moderate Palestinians or radical Palestinians. We are Palestinian. We are not for them, we are for ourselves. If they are not forthcoming, we are fighters and radicals."

This identification of all Arabs with the Palestinians was emphasised by Lakhdar Brahimi, assistant secretary-general for information for the League of Arab States. Although he is from Tunis, Mr. Brahimi said: "I consider myself to be a Palestinian, as do my wife and children. All people who are interested in justice are, in a sense, Palestinians."

A scholarly paper was delivered by the Abd Al Latif Al Hamad, director-general of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development.

Mr. Hamad gave a wide-ranging analysis of the economic

Algeria will not restore diplomatic relations with Egypt unilaterally

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria will not restore full diplomatic relations with Egypt unilaterally, Algerian Foreign Ministry officials said.

They were commenting Friday on a report in an Iranian newspaper that Algeria and Cairo would resume diplomatic links soon and that an Algerian envoy who visited Tehran recently defended such a reconciliation.

The officials told Reuters Alg-

eria's position was made clear by President Chadli Benjedid recently when he said "the decision was taken in an Arab summit and reversing it should be done the same way."

Algeria joined a majority of Arab states in cutting ties with Egypt in the wake of the Camp David accords, which led to the 1979 peace treaty between Egypt and Israel.

But diplomats said relations are lately much improved between Algeria and Egypt, which share a distrust of Libya.

Mr. Benjedid had a long talk with President Hosni Mubarak during an Organisation of African Unity (OAU) summit in Addis Ababa this summer and a Mubarak envoy visited Algiers last month.

Traditional parties, independent allies dominate Sudanese student elections

KHARTOUM (R) — Traditional religious parties and their independent allies thrashed the fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood here this week in student elections which could indicate the trend in national polls promised for next spring.

In a poll at Omdurman Islamic University near Khartoum last Tuesday the Brotherhood won only two out of 30 seats on the Students' Union Committee, with the rest going to an alliance between independents and the political wings of the Ansar and Khatmia sects.

The Brotherhood suffers from its association with former President Jaafar Numeiri, whom it supported until shortly before his overthrow last April.

Sadeq Al Mahdi's Ansar is now allied nationally to a broad range of leftist and Communist parties and the sources said they stood a good chance of winning the largest share of the votes if next spring's poll takes place.

The transitional government is in the final stages of drafting a new election law, but delays in pre-

paring the legislation have raised doubts over whether the vote can take place before the one-year transitional period expires next April.

A communications blackout in Sudan was lifted Saturday when workers called off a three-day strike, restoring telephone and telex services.

Official sources said the Workers' Unions settled new terms Friday night with the telecommunications authority.

But Sudan's industrial troubles were far from over. Workers in the petrol distribution industry went on strike for better pay and conditions. All petrol stations in the capital Khartoum stayed closed and traffic was light.

Others striking were senior civil servants in the provinces and ancillary workers in higher education.

Chicago convention focuses on Palestine issue

CHICAGO (USIA) — The just-concluded annual convention of the Association of Arab-American University Graduates (AAUG) was a multi-layered meeting, one at which scholarly papers on Arab economic and social problems were delivered in one seminar while in the next room a highly-emotional discussion of Zionism and the Palestinian issue was taking place.

During the 13 forums and in speeches during the four-day gathering participants analysed in detail the social and economic options open to individual Arab states and frequently expressed a call for new pan-Arab leadership.

However, the dominant tone of the three-day convention was articulated at the gala banquet. The issue that was uppermost in the minds of most of those who attended — the Palestinians — provided a recurring theme and a unifying rallying-point for the 600 people who gathered for this closing event.

The assemblage was greeted on behalf of Mayor Harold Washington by Alderman Clifford Kelly, one of the 50 members of the city council that governs Chicago. Both Mayor Washington and Alderman Kelly are black and represent a small but widening confluence of American blacks and Arabs.

Alderman Kelly, who has visited Arab countries and the West Bank several times, described himself as a lifelong friend of the Arabs.

"The continued occupation of Palestine by the Israelis," Alderman Kelly said, "translates to the oppression of the Palestinians. We need justice, fairness and human rights on the West Bank."

The Palestinians were also upmost in the mind of Ambassador Clovis Malsoud, permanent observer to the United Nations and chief representative to the United States for the League of Arab States.

"This is a moment," Mr. Malsoud said, "when Palestinian nationalists should be reaffirmed to provide the unity that the Zionists are trying to destroy. Let there be self-criticism, but not self-destructiveness — the enemies of the Palestinians and the Arabs are waiting for a haemorrhage of our will." He added: "We are not moderate Palestinians or radical Palestinians. We are Palestinian. We are not for them, we are for ourselves. If they are not forthcoming, we are fighters and radicals."

This identification of all Arabs with the Palestinians was emphasised by Lakhdar Brahimi, assistant secretary-general for information for the League of Arab States. Although he is from Tunis, Mr. Brahimi said: "I consider myself to be a Palestinian, as do my wife and children. All people who are interested in justice are, in a sense, Palestinians."

A scholarly paper was delivered by the Abd Al Latif Al Hamad, director-general of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development.

Mr. Hamad gave a wide-ranging analysis of the economic

problems and potential for the Arab World for the next 15 years.

He described the 1973-74 increase in oil prices as a turning point that will not be repeated. Nevertheless, he said, it allowed some Arab countries to make historic progress in social, cultural and economic areas. That progress was sustained from 1973 to 1981 but has since slowed, although this does not necessarily reflect the long-term future, he said.

With progress, Mr. Hamad said, had come problems. Among them the new strains presented by rapid urbanisation and a decline in agricultural self-sufficiency.

Also, he pointed out, the infusion of capital has made many of the Arab countries more open societies and has brought them into contact with modern consumerist tendencies, which in some areas have made them dependent upon imported goods and technologies.

Mr. Hamad described a strong socio-economic development as one in which there is self-sustained and wide-ranging economic growth, political stability, improving material conditions, and greater acceptance of social change. He said that oil income in the oil-producing countries will begin to increase substantially.

A session on Arab states policies towards the United States and Europe revolved largely upon the importance of U.S. influence in the Middle East, an influence that has replaced that held by Europe prior to World War II.

Mr. Hamad said that the United States and Europe have a role to play in the Middle East, an influence that has replaced that held by Europe prior to World War II.

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224 to contest in Cyprus parliamentary elections

NICOSIA (R) — More than 200 candidates will contest 56 seats in Cyprus' parliament next month in a campaign centring on the Greek Cypriot-run government's handling of negotiations with Turkish Cypriots.

The four main political parties submitted 224 names when electoral officers formally accepted nominations Friday, officials said. There are two independent candidates.

The Communist Akel and right-wing Rally parties forced the early poll, to be held on Dec. 8, after President Spyros Kyprianou rejected their censure of his handling of failed talks with Turkish Cypriots in January on reunifying the island.

The U.N.-sponsored talks aimed to set up a federation in Cyprus, divided since Turkey inv-

aded and occupied the northern third in 1974 after a short-lived coup by Greek Cypriot military officers loyal to the junta then ruling Greece.

Rally chief Glafcos Clerides and Akel's Ezkias Pappaioannou will conduct separate campaigns, but aim to achieve a combined two-thirds majority to enable them to amend the constitution.

Mr. Kyprianou said Friday night their plan posed "a concrete and tangible threat" to the republic and could call into question its internationally-recognised legitimacy. A two-year-old breakaway Turkish Cypriot state in the north is recognised only by Turkey.

Mr. Kyprianou's Democratic Party will be led to the polls by House of Representatives President George Ladas.

U.N. appeals for funds to Cyprus force

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has appealed for contributions to finance the U.N. Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), saying it has an accumulated deficit of more than \$122 million.

In a letter to U.N. members he says that because of this, troop-contributing countries' claims on the United Nations had been met only up to June 1978.

"Despite my predecessors' and my own repeated appeals, the voluntary contributions on which UNFICYP must rely have over the years fallen far short of the expenditures for which the United Nations is responsible, even though the United Nations share is but a fraction of the cost of maintaining UNFICYP," he said.

TV & RADIO	
JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 73111-19	BBC WORLD SERVICE 639, 720, 1413 KHz
MAIN CHANNEL	
17:00 Koran	06:00 Newsweek 06:30 The Best of Folk
17:30 Cartoons	06:45 Financial Review 06:55 Reflections
17:45 Children's Programmes	07:00 World News 07:09 24 Hours: News Summary 07:30 Brotherhood of Brass 07:45 Letter from America 08:00 Newsweek 08:30 Jazz for the Aspiring 08:45 World News 09:30 24 Hours: News Summary 09:30 Hunger
18:30 Local Programmes	09:50 Hunger 10:00 World News 10:09 24 Hours: News Summary 10:15 The Pleasure of Your 11:00 World News 11:09 British Press Review 11:15 Science in Action 11:45 Training for Tomorrow 12:00 Religious Service 12:00 World News 12:09 24 Hours: News Summary 12:15 From Our Own Correspondent 12:30 Play of the Week 12:45 Culture 12:50 World News 12:59 24 Hours: News Summary 13:00 The Tony Myatt Request Show 13:00 News Summary 13:05 16:00 Newsweek 13:15 Jones Request Show 17:00 Radio Newsweek 17:15 Concert Hall 17:30 Sports Special 18:00 World News 18:09 Commentary 18:15 Richard III 18:30 Phone-In: It's Your World 18:45 Letter from America 19:00 World News 19:09 World Photo-In 19:40 Reflections 19:45 Sports Round-up 20:00 Newsweek 20:30 Mainstream 21:00 News Summary 21:15 London Belongs To Me 22:00 World News 22:09 24 Hours: News Summary 22:30 Sunday Half Hour 23:00 News Summary: Short Story 23:15 The Pleasure of Your 23:40 World News 00:09 John Arlott's Poetry Book 00:25 Book Choice 00:30 Financial News 00:40 Reflections 00:45 Sports Round-up
19:30 Programme Review	
19:50 News Programme	
20:30 News in Arabic	
20:30 Phone-In from His Majesty King Hussein's 50th Birthday	
21:00 Live transmission from the Royal Cultural Centre of an Arabic Musical Evening	
23:00 News in Arabic	
FOREIGN CHANNEL	
17:30 le grand échiquier	
18:00 News in French	
19:15 Coups de soleil	
19:30 News in Hebrew	
20:00 News in Arabic	
20:30 Comedy: Chance in a Million	
21:10 The Way of the Warrior	
22:00 News in English	
22:30 Hotel	
RADIO JORDAN 855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & party on 95.60 KHz, SW Tel: 77411-19	
07:30 Light Music	
07:30 Newsweek	
08:00 Morning Show	
10:00 News Summary	
10:05 Pop Session	
12:00 News Summary	
12:05 Pop Session Cont.	
13:00 News Summary	
13:05 Pop Session	
14:00 News Bulletin	
14:10 Instruments	
14:15 Science Report	
15:00 Concert Hour	
15:00 News Summary	
16:05 Old Favourites	
17:00 Listeners' Choice	
18:00 News Summary	
18:05 Jazz Hour	
19:00 Newsweek	
19:30 Date with a Star	
20:00 Evening Show	
21:00 News Summary	
21:05 Evening Show Cont.	
21:55 News Summary	
22:00 Evening Show Cont.	
22:00 News Summary	
22:57 News Headlines	
24:00 Close down	

WHAT'S GOING ON	
TODAY'S EVENTS	
EXHIBITIONS	
"An exhibition entitled 'The Sea: A World for Tomorrow' — organized by the French Cultural Centre — at the Holiday Inn Hotel in Amman (until Nov. 17)	
"A comprehensive exhibition on Jordan at Yarmouk University on the occasion of the 50th birthday of His Majesty King Hussein.	
"Book exhibitions: Computers and their applications and British books on presentation at Mu'ta University (until Nov. 20)	
"An exhibition of paintings depicting cultural heritage in Jordan by Mohamad Al-Fayez at the Housing Bank Complex (until Nov. 24)	
"A national stamp exhibition organized by the Ministry of Communications and embassies in Jordan, at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Nov. 20)	
"An art exhibition by Rafik Al Lohani at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Nov. 20)	
CULTURAL CENTRES	
Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267	American Centre Tel. 644371
British Council 6361478	French Cultural Centre 637009
Goethe Institute 641953	Soviet Cultural Centre 644203
Spanish Cultural Centre 624049	Turkish Cultural Centre 639777
Haya Arts Centre 665195	Husseini Youth Club 6671816
Y.W.C.A. 641793	Y.W.M.C.A. 642521
Arman Municipal Library 637111	University of Jordan Library 843555
MUSEUMS	
Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre. Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.	
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al-Jar (Clotel Hill). Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.	
PRAYER TIMES	
06:43 Fajr	06:07 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:21 Asr	14:16 Maghreb
16:35 Isha	18:40 Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER	
JUREN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Alia International Airport, tel. (08) 33200-3, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
02:30 Bucharest (RO)	09:00 Berlin, Lamma (RF)
09:00 Cairo (EG)	09:35 Doha, Abu Dhabi (KU)
09:35 Cairo (EG)	09:45 Cairo (EG)
09:45 Jeddah (SA)	09:45 Amman (JO)
10:00 Doha, Bahrain (RU)	10:45 Doha, Bahrain (RU)
12:30 Istanbul (TR)	13:45 Kuwait (KU)
15:05 Tripoli, Lamma (LN)	17:15 Baghdad (IA)
17:30 Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (R)	17:50 New York, Amsterdam (RU)
17:55 Paris, Brussels (RU)	18:00 Rome (RU)
18:00 London (RU)	18:05 Geneva, Madrid (RU)
18:05 Athens, Damascus (RU)	18:05 Frankfurt, Aleppo (LH)
20:30 London (RU)	20:30 Cairo (MS)
00:25 Baghdad (RU)	
DEPARTURES	
03:30 Bucharest (RO)	06:20 Damascus, Frankfurt (LH)
07:30 Amman (JO)	07:30 Amman (JO)
08:00 Damascus, Beirut (AF)	08:00 Beirut (ME)
08:15 Damascus, Rome (AZ)	10:20 Lamma, Berlin (RF)
10:45 Tunis, Casablanca (RU)	11:00 Vienna, New York (RU)
11:30 Amman (JO)	11:30 Amman (JO)
12:15 Riyadh, Doha (SV)	13:30 Cairo (MS)
14:10 Doha, Bahrain (RU)	15:00 Amman (JO)
15:00 Lamma, Tripoli (LN)	16:00 Amman (JO)
16:00 Amman (JO)	19:30 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (KU)
20:00 Amman (JO)	20:00 Amman (JO)
20:10 Amman (JO)	20:30 Amman (JO)
20:30 Amman (JO)	20:30 Amman (JO)
20:45 Amman (JO)	21:30 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RU)
21:25 Amman (JO)	22:00 Amman (JO)
00:45 Amman (JO)	00:45 Amman (JO)

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES		NIGHT DUTY	
Amman governorate 891228		AMMAN:	
Amman civil defence 198, 199		Dr. Mawardi Al Jarini 776258	
Civil Defence Unit 271293, 271311		Dr. Awwad Agabawi 642696	
Civil Defence Quarters 770733		Al Salam pharmacy 636730	
Ambulance 193, 775111		Fins pharmacy 661912	
Amman downtown fire brigade 198		Khalil pharmacy 776653	
First aid 667210		Nature's pharmacy 632672	
Blood bank 776303		Maher pharmacy 666937	
Civil Defence rescue 661111		Khalil pharmacy 666601	
Fire headquarters 622090-3		Nafin pharmacy 772310	
Police rescue 192, 621111, 637777		Al Jasr pharmacy 656491	
Police headquarters 637777		Al Safra pharmacy 774054	
Traffic police 8963901			
Electric Power Co. 636381/4, 624881		TAXIS:	
Municipal water complaints 771125/8		Husseini taxi 721776	
Queen Abla Int. Airport (08)5333060		Shakhsun taxi 664858	
		Bassam taxi 811087	
		Abli taxi 621127	
		Khayyam taxi 641541	
		Mashhour taxi 625021	
		IRBID:	
		Dr. Shehdi Al Zagh 240400	
		Tubeishat pharmacy 273141	
		ZAR-JA:	
		Dr. Samer Lawzi (-)	
		Jordan pharmacy 963124	
		GENERAL	
		Jordan Television 773111/9	
		Radio Jordan 774111/9	
		Ministry of Tourism 642311	
		Hotel complaints 666123	
		Price complaints 661176	
		Telephone Information 12	
		Jordan and Middle East calls 10	
		Overseas calls 19	
		Repair service 11	

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in £/kg per kg.		Marrow (large) 100 / 70	
Apple 250 / 220		Marrow (small) 210 / 180	
Banana 200 / 260		Olive (green) 210 / 180	
Banana (Mukhammad) 250 / 220		Onion (dry) 160 / 120	
Beans 380 / 300		Onion 300 / 400	
Cabbage 140 / 100		Orange (Abu Samra) 300 / 200	
Carrot (yellow) 150 / 100		Orange (Shamouni) 220 / 160	
Cauliflower 130 / 100		Parsley 100 / 100	
Cucumber (large) 90 / 70		Peas 500 / 400	
Cucumber (small) 180 / 150		Pepper (sweet) 340 / 300	
Eggplant (large) 100 / 70		Pepper (hot) 270 / 150	
Eggplant (small) 200 / 150		Radishes 340 / 200	
Garlic (wild onion leaves) 440 / 400		Raspberries 120 / 80	
Garlic (wild onion) 300 / 220		Spinach 170 / 120	
Grapes (white) 300 / 220		Tomatoes 180 / 120	
Juvayn 300 / 220			
Lemon 160 / 130			

Palestine fund in financial straits with \$100m deficit

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Palestine National Fund (PNF) is facing a deficit of \$100 million according to Chairman of the PNF and member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee Jawid Al Ghusseini.

In an interview with the Arab News Agency (ANA) Saturday following the conclusion of a PNF meeting, Mr. Ghusseini said that the fund's deficit was the main subject of discussion during the meeting, held in Amman over the past two days. The meetings were attended by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and senior Palestinian officials.

During the meeting, participants discussed the deteriorating situation in the occupied Arab territories and in Lebanon, the budget deficits of Arab universities in the occupied territories and the worsening financial circumstances of hospitals and health centres in Israeli occupied lands.

Mr. Ghusseini added that universities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have a total deficit of \$18 million in their budgets. He expressed hope that Arab countries would cover this deficit and contribute towards remedying the

deteriorating financial situations of hospitals and health centres in the occupied territories. Mr. Ghusseini went on to express appreciation and gratitude to Arab Gulf leaders who have voiced their support for the PLO.

He pointed out that the fund's financial burdens are a result of fighting in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon, which absorbed more than \$30 million. He added that the annual commitments of the fund exceed \$40 million for the families of Palestinian martyrs.

Mr. Ghusseini said that rising unemployment among new graduates in the occupied Arab territories and the possibilities of obtaining loans from Arab and Islamic funds under the PNF's guarantee were also discussed during the meeting. Such loans could help to finance projects designed to provide work opportunities for Palestinians and to yield economic gains for the Palestinian people living under Israeli occupation, he said.

Another burden on the fund, Mr. Ghusseini added, is a new commitment towards meeting the financial needs of over 1,000 families whose close relatives are being held in Israeli prisons.

USAID director due today

AMMAN (Petra) — Director General of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Peter McPherson is due here Sunday on a two-day visit to Jordan. During his visit, he will hold talks with a number of senior officials on the follow-up of an economic and technical cooperation programme between the U.S. and Jordan and ways of further developing this programme. USAID Assistant Director General Charles Greenleaf arrived here Saturday for the same purpose.

The agency has contributed \$17

million towards financing a project for the development of agriculture in the highlands and has also offered a \$160 million grant to finance the import of goods and services for the public and private sectors. USAID also has contributed to setting up and equipping 40 compulsory schools throughout the country as part of a \$90 million grant for assisting development projects.

Ministry of Planning sources said that talks with the USAID officials will also deal with the financing of priority development projects in Jordan.

Agriculture minister leaves for desertification seminar

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Agriculture Ahmad Dakqan Friday left for Khartoum at the head of a Jordanian delegation on a several day visit to Sudan. During his stay in Sudan he will develop a joint study with the Sudanese Ministry of Agriculture and will also address an international seminar on desertification.

Participants in the ten-day seminar, which starts in Khartoum Sunday, will discuss issues pertaining to satellite photos for the purpose of agricultural development, the exploration of water in dry areas and means of stemming desertification and soil erosion in arid zones. Mr. Dakqan said.

Mr. Dakqan will also deliver letters from Crown Prince Hassan

to General Abdul Rahman Swaraddah, the chairman of the Higher Military Council, the prime minister, the Ministries of Industry and Finance and the governor of the Central Bank. He will also visit a Jordanian medical team, presently in Sudan to help treat drought victims in the western parts of Sudan and will inspect the services rendered by this medical team. Taking part in the seminar will be specialists from some Arab and European countries and international organisations.

Jordan's delegation to the seminar includes Brigadier Rafat Al Majali, the director general of the Jordanian National Geographical Centre, Mr. Mahmoud Yassin and Mr. Jamal Al Dabbas from the Ministry of Agriculture.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Prophet's birthday falls on Nov. 25

AMMAN (Petra) — The Prophet Mohammad's birthday will fall on Rabi'ul Awwal 12, 1406 corresponding to Nov. 25, 1985 as announced in a statement issued Saturday by Chief Islamic Justice Sheikh Mohammad Mhailan.

Ministry hosts banquet for Indian envoy

AMMAN (Petra) — The Foreign Ministry Saturday hosted a dinner banquet at the Amman Marriott hotel in honour of Indian Ambassador in Amman Pyare Lal Santhi on the occasion of the end of his term in office. Minister of State for Prime Minister Affairs Hafez Nusseibeh praised the relations linking Jordan and India and India's stands at international forums vis-a-vis Arab causes. Dr. Nusseibeh presented the ambassador with a commemorative gift in appreciation of his efforts to bolster Jordanian-Indian ties. Mr. Santhi thanked His Majesty King Hussein for the special attention he has paid to the bilateral relations between Jordan and India and he praised the King's efforts to establish peace in the region. He also affirmed his country's support for the Arab cause.

Arab culture ministers to meet Nov. 25

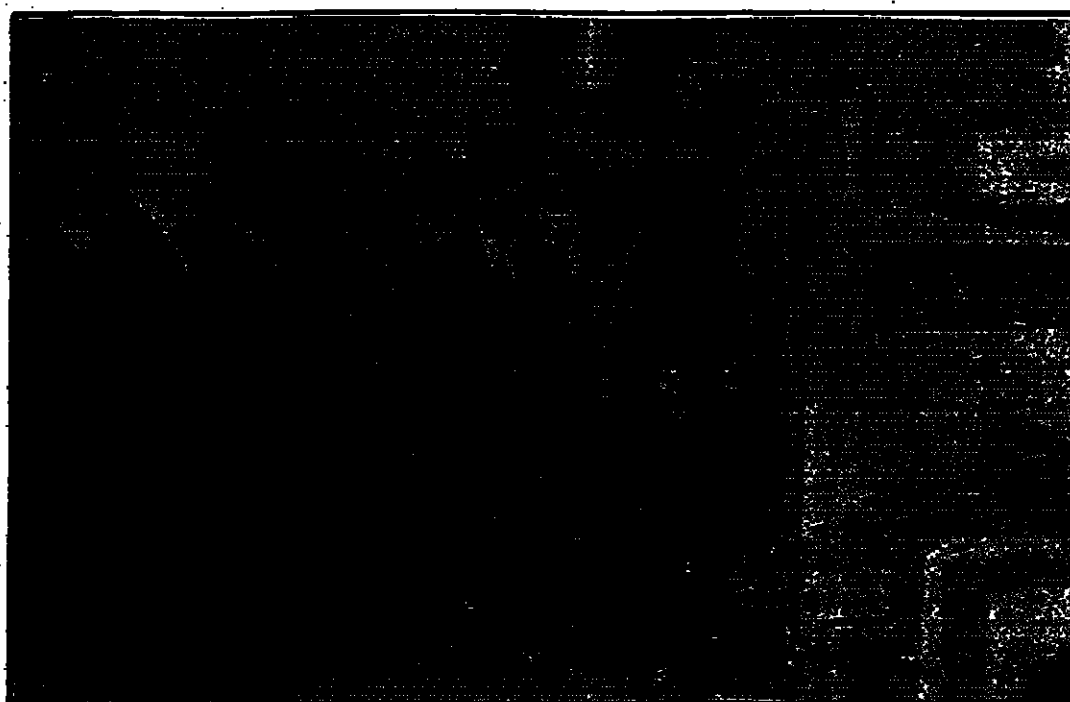
TUNIS (Petra) — Arab ministers of cultural affairs will open their conference in Tunis on Nov. 25 to discuss a comprehensive Arab cultural plan. The ministers' discussions will focus on a comprehensive draft plan for Arab culture which will be submitted for approval. On the agenda of the conference are a number of issues related to the Arab cultural and intellectual movement and ways of developing it.

Working team studies lighting projects

AMMAN (Petra) — A working team from the Jordan Electricity Authority and the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources along with a number of world experts are conducting a study to draw up a code for street lighting in the Kingdom. The study aims to unify lighting specifications, reducing the number of projects and reducing electricity consumption.

Deputies leave for New Delhi

AMMAN (Petra) — Lower House of Parliament members Dr. Fawzi Tuqani and Dr. Musa Abu Ghosh will leave for New Delhi today to take part in the Non-Aligned Movement conference on youth, organised by the Indian Youth Congress Party. Dr. Tuqani said that the three-day conference, to start on Nov. 19, will be held under the motto "Non-Aligned youth for the liberation of man from fear and slavery."



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Abdul Wahab Al Majali inspects equipment during an exhibition of industry and agriculture in Sahab on Saturday. The exhibition was part of the celebrations in honour of His Majesty King Hussein's 50th birthday (Petra photo)

Sahab industrial, agricultural exhibition opens

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputising for His Majesty King Hussein, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Abdul Wahab Al Majali Saturday inaugurated an industrial and agricultural exhibition and opened a factory for producing capsules used in the pharmaceutical industry.

The exhibition, which is co-organised by the Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC) in Sahab and the Ministries of Agriculture and Industry and Trade, is part of Jordan's celebrations of King Hussein's 50th birthday. On display at the exhibition are products from 123 local companies and factories producing all kinds of industrial and agricultural goods.

Boy scouts from schools in the Sahab area performed Jordanian dances and sang popular songs to the tunes of the Jordanian Armed Forces band. Sahab residents also organised a march from the municipality building to the exhibition area. The march was headed by

men riding camels.

Attending the inauguration ceremony were Minister of Industry and Trade Rajai Al Muasher and the ministry's undersecretary, a number of senators and deputies, the director of Amman district police, the sub-district governor of Sahab, the mayor of Sahab and members of the public.

Mr. Majali also opened a capsule factory, owned by the Arab Centre for Pharmaceutical and Chemical Industries, which started production on Oct. 15. Mr. Majali was briefed on the factory, its equipment and products. The factory will start producing other medicine next year.

Speaking about the industrial exhibition, Dr. Fayed Suheimat, the director of the JIEC, said the exhibition demonstrates the great success Jordanian industry and agriculture have achieved under King Hussein's rule. It also illustrates the support and encouragement the Jordanian gov-

ernment has provided for industry and agriculture as part of governmental measures to boost the Jordanian economy. Mr. Suheimat added.

In an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. Suheimat said that the exhibition and the products on display are evidence that Jordanian industries are capable of competing with foreign products in terms of quality and price. He added that consecutive development plans have stressed the importance of the industrial sector and its important role in the national economy and its increasing contribution to the national income.

Chairman of the Amman Chamber of Industry Issam Bdeir paid tribute to the industrial progress of the Kingdom and expressed appreciation to all those who contributed to the success of the exhibition. The two-week exhibition includes a special stand for children.

Ministry takes steps to fill vacant teaching posts

By Monika Warich
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — At the beginning of most previous school years, the heads of government schools in Jordan have had difficulty in finding younger teachers to fill vacancies at their schools and the gap has had to be bridged through overtime work by schools' staff. Director of Personnel at the Ministry of Education Chalid Ghazawi told the Jordan Times.

This was the case this year too, but during the first weeks of the present term it has been possible to fill most of those posts and Mr. Ghazawi is optimistic to have the required number of teachers by the end of this month.

In the opinion of Director of Education Jazat Jaradat, there is no general shortage of teachers, but rather a reluctance on the part of some young male teachers of certain subjects to report to work at government schools. Concerning the female teachers, he sees a problem in the large num-

bers of female teacher graduates from the community colleges and the universities who often are not able to find an appropriate teaching post. Graduates from community colleges teach in the compulsory cycle (elementary and preparatory stages), while teachers at secondary schools have to have a university degree.

The difficulty as Dr. Jaradat sees it, is that a number of graduates are not willing to take up work in schools to which they are assigned, usually located in their home area. This is particularly true for teachers in mathematics, physics and English language. They often tend to accept teaching jobs in private institutions or else go abroad, he said. Dr. Jaradat admitted that the rather low salaries offered to teachers at government schools contribute to this trend.

In general, the Ministry of Education gives priority assignments to those teachers who have commitments to fulfil because they received a government sch-

olarship for their training. If they cannot fill all vacancies, positions are offered to other graduates and assigned according to their marks and the time of application, he explained. The ministry has recently devised a system of contracting teachers for a one-year period to give a chance to those who want to find out about the job before they commit themselves for a life-time, Dr. Jaradat said.

However, all subjects are covered fully at all times, and in the case of staff shortages, overtime has to be worked according to need.

Asked about future developments, Dr. Jaradat said that within the period of the coming five-year-plan (1986-90), a higher overall standard of teaching should be achieved. Teaching in Jordan should become a profession which will be socially accepted and so attract more able and dedicated young people, which at the same time should provide them with an adequate income, he concluded.

W. Germany to continue its financial assistance to Jordan, official says

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

BONN, West Germany — The Federal Republic of Germany does not contemplate any reduction in its future technical and financial aid programme to Jordan and will continue to help the Kingdom carry out its various socio-economic development projects, an official at the Federal Ministry for Economic Development said recently.

"Although we believe that Jordan has reached a well-developed socio-economic level in comparison with other developing countries, West Germany will maintain its future technical and financial aid programme to Jordan," said Dr. Gunter Bonnet, who is in charge of Jordanian, Syrian and Lebanese economic affairs at the Federal Ministry for Economic Development.

The federal government's financial assistance to Jordan for the 1984-1986 programme is DM 70 million, while the technical assistance allocations for Jordan in 1984-1985 were DM 13 million, Dr. Bonnet said.

After the United States, West Germany is the second largest non-Arab provider of foreign economic assistance to Jordan. This however, does not include German contributions through other regional and international organisations such as the European Community (EC), the World Bank, the World Health Organisation (WHO), or the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

Dr. Bonnet told the Jordan Times that in the relations between West Germany and Jordan,

technical cooperation plays an important role, concentrating on rural development and the modernisation of agriculture, the provision of advisors and training of experts and managers.

The bulk of Germany's financial aid to Jordan concentrates on the Jordan Valley irrigation project phase II, laying the Aqaba-Ma'an railway infrastructure and carrying out water, electricity and sewerage projects, Dr. Bonnet explained.

Irrigation project

Phase two of the irrigation project includes a 14.5 kilometre extension of the East Ghor Canal to benefit a total of 59,340 dunums between Karameh and the Amman-Naour-Jerusalem road. The project is partially funded by the West German Development Fund (KFW).

Among the past projects established with German assistance, or advice are the Aqaba Railway Corporation, the Aqaba Port administration, Jordan's telecommunications system and a crop protection and agricultural advisory service. Dr. Bonnet also said that the Ministry for Economic Development has given due attention in its technical assistance programme for 1984-1985 to agriculture, education and health.

"We work closely with the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) and the Agricultural Credit Cooperation (ACC), he said. One of our main technical assistance projects in Jordan is the second phase of the Zarqa River Basin Project, he added.

Mr. Bonnet continued that the ministry has also worked closely

with the Ministry of Education and the University of Jordan in the fields of developing teaching methods and scientific research. An example of educational assistance is the University of Jordan Physics Department which received DM 0.8 million of the nuclear accelerator project which is now operating successfully, he said.

The federal government has also allocated DM 3.1 million for the "export pool," mainly providing advisory staff for various programmes such as a projected project to extract oil from oil shale. The project, which is still in the planning stage, received DM 1.5 million for the first phase of the feasibility study.

Jordan's economy

Dr. Bonnet, who is an expert on Middle East economy, said that the Jordanian economy is characterised as "strong," but the main obstacles impeding its growth are the marketing of goods on national and international levels in relation with its external policies and its geographical location.

Dr. Bonnet also predicts that the Jordanian economy will suffer setbacks as a result of the downturn in the economies of Arab oil producing states which has resulted in the return of large numbers of Jordanian expatriates who used to work in these countries. "The return of expatriates to Jordan will certainly reduce the country's revenues which were formed by expatriate's remittances," he stressed.

He concluded by stressing that Germany never interferes in the internal policies of any country which is getting German technical and financial aid.

Celebrations in Jordan, abroad mark King's 50th birthday

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN (J.T.) — Celebrations continued throughout the Kingdom Saturday to mark His Majesty King Hussein's 50th birthday and parades, festivals and sports activities were held in towns and villages. Jordanian embassies abroad also marked the occasion with receptions and celebrations.

In Madaba, street marches and sports activities were held for the third consecutive day in Dhebban and other villages in Madaba district. The marches were headed by Madaba District Governor Abdul Halim Al Awwad, senior government officials and dignitaries in Madaba. Sports clubs, scouts, students and charitable societies took part in the event carrying the Jordanian and Golden Jubilee flags marching through the streets of the town which was bedecked with flags, banners and posters.

At the end of the parade and other events, the university folklore troupe distributed gifts to patients in the Madaba hospital. On Sunday, Balqa Governorate is due to hold its main festival at the cultural centre premises to mark the occasion of His Majesty's 50th birthday.

The private and public sectors are to take part in the parade which will start after the governor of Balqa hoisted the Jordanian Golden Jubilee flags. The governor will also unveil a plaque of the family tree of the Hashemite family. Other activities are also scheduled, including street marches and parades. The celebrations in Balqa Governorate will continue until Thursday.

In London, British Chief of the

Royal Court John Rochfield paid a visit to the Jordanian Embassy and presented congratulations on the King's 50th birthday on behalf of Queen Elizabeth of England.

Also on the occasion, His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad distributed trophies and medals to winners of a chess tournament organised by the Royal Jordanian Chess Club, held to mark the King's 50th birthday.

At the outset of the ceremony, held at Samir Rifai Secondary School, the Prince, who is also president of the club, distributed medals to winners in the tournament in which 117 players from all parts of the Kingdom took part.

The finals of a table tennis tournament also took place Saturday with 30 contestants playing for the cup.

In Irbid, a troupe from Yarmouk University performed an evening of live varieties at Princess Basma Hospital to entertain patients.

Embassies host receptions

In Moscow, the Jordanian ambassador to the Soviet Union held a reception to mark the occasion. The reception was attended by

senior Soviet officials.

Jordanian Ambassador to Spain Mohammad Al Awwad also held a reception attended by 700 key personalities and Spanish dignitaries and heads of diplomatic missions in Madrid.

Jordan's embassies in Belgrade and Baghdad also held celebrations to mark the occasion and which were attended by leading personalities, ministers, senior officials and heads of diplomatic corps.

The Jordanian-Austrian Friendship Society held an exhibition in Vienna which was jointly organised with the Ministry of Youth. The exhibition included portraits of His Majesty King Hussein, a number of banners, touristic, archaeological and cultural photographs displaying the progress and prosperity Jordan has achieved under the leadership of King Hussein.

Exhibitions

At Al Hussein Sports City, a photographic exhibition was held showing photos of the King practising his favourite sports.

An exhibition jointly organised by the Housing Bank and the Department of Libraries, Documentation and National Archives (DLNA), is due to open Monday. On display at the exhibition will be documents dating back to the Great Arab Revolt and photographs showing the King as a leader, father and family man.

As parts of the activities throughout Jordan, a number of art and handicraft exhibitions opened to the public to highlight the importance of the occasion.



Jordanians in Karak Governorate march through the streets in observance of His Majesty King Hussein's 50th birthday (Petra photo)

Egypt urges superpower efforts for peace

(Continued from page 1)

in the press," Kalb said. "And our understanding of Jordan's official position is as King Hussein set it forth in his speech Sept. 27 before the U.N. General Assembly."

The spokesman told reporters he did not have "anything more to help you on" the subject of the Jordanian-Syrian communiqué.

Israel would probably accept an international conference to facilitate direct, bilateral peace negotiations between Israel and Jordan, Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Friday.

Rabin told about 300 people at Georgetown University's Centre for Strategic and International Studies that Jordan should agree to begin bilateral talks. "The ball

is in Jordan's court," he said. But he added that if the obstacle to peace is "some sort of international umbrella that would initiate the direct, bilateral negotiations between Israel and Jordan, then I would consider that obstacle to be removable."

"As long as this umbrella would not interfere with direct, bilateral negotiations, I believe that Israel will accept."

Rabin said that Palestinian participation should present no problem.

"It is legitimate on the part of Jordan to demand that a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation should be the delegation that would negotiate peace with Israel. We have no reason to oppose the inclusion of any leader on the West Bank and Gaza. After all,

their fate will be decided. But there is one condition: that they are not declared members of the PLO."

"It is not too late to continue the peace process," Rabin said. But he noted that two levels of conflict exist in the Middle East, the regional one and the global one between the two superpowers.

He declared that Egypt's late President Anwar Sadat contributed to ending the conflict at both levels by agreeing to negotiate at Camp David.

Arab League Secretary General Chadi Al Kibbi also called on the United States and the Soviet Union to shoulder their responsibilities towards the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Iran-Iraq war.

In an interview with the Asharq Al Ahsan newspaper published on Saturday, Mr. Kibbi called on Mr. Gorbachev and Mr. Reagan to show more concern with these two problems because their continuity poses threat to international peace and security.

Mr. Kibbi called on the two leaders to give the Palestinian issue priority in their Geneva talks to prevent the aggravation of the tense situation in the region and said that the Soviet Union and the United States should support peace efforts aimed at reaching a peaceful settlement to the Iran-Iraq war.

The Arab League secretary general stressed the importance of holding the U.S.-Soviet summit and said that it comes after a long time of tension between the two superpowers. He expressed hope that the summit will come out with positive results on most world issues.

King, Arafat hold talks

(Continued from page 1)

Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Jaseem, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Foreign Minister Taher, Al Masri, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, General Intelligence Department Director-General Tareq Alaeiddin and Royal Court Secretary-General Rajai Dajani.

PLO Executive Committee members Mohammad Milhene, Abdul Rahim Ahmad and Abdul Razak Al Yahya, Fateh Central Committee member Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad) and PLO Deputy Military Commander Khalil Al Wazir (Abu Jihad) represented the Palestinian side in the meeting, the agency added.

Mr. Arafat arrived in Amman earlier this week for talks with the King and to chair a meeting of the Palestine National Fund.

Mr. Arafat was expected to leave Amman late Saturday or early Sunday but his destination was unknown.

The Egyptian daily Al Ahsan said Saturday that PLO leaders are expected to discuss their next moves in the search for Middle East peace at an emergency ses-

sion to be held in Baghdad next week.

The authoritative daily, which gave no source for its report, said the week-long session under the chairmanship of Mr. Arafat would also discuss the outcome of his talks in Cairo earlier this month and his declaration renouncing violence, outside Israeli-occupied territory.

The Baghdad meeting of the PLO Executive Committee would consider future coordination between Cairo and the PLO to break the current stalemate in the search for peace, Al Ahsan said.

It would also strive to define the PLO attitude towards U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, which the U.S. says must be accepted by the PLO as a precondition to peace talks, according to Al Ahsan.

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Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

Public and private sectors should disengage

THE JORDANIAN economy is officially recognised as a free market economy that depends on the initiative of the individual within the norms of the private sector, but practically the public sector has, over the years, grown out of proportion.

The modernisation and growth in Jordan since 1975 was phenomenal. GNP almost doubled in eight years. Annual growth rate was fluctuating between 1.5 per cent and 19.8 per cent in real terms at an average of around 10 per cent.

While the public sector employs around 50 per cent of the national manpower in the country and provides almost half of all capital investments, all major shareholding companies are partially owned by the government with the major ones

practically governmental units with chief executive officers and members of board being appointed and dismissed by the government.

There is a market with supply and demand in force, but the government fixes prices of all basic and important commodities and services, whether imported or locally produced, including but not limited to, foodstuffs, transport, medicine and medical services, water, electricity, spare parts, fuel and building materials. The officially priced goods and services make up over 60 per cent of the overall expenditure on both consumption and capital formation.

Government outflows are involved in trading, man-

ufacturing, hotels, banking and other related activities. The public sector is responsible for over 35 per cent of the value added. The extent of its success in managing these activities is not satisfactory. The rate of return on public investments is almost half the rate achieved by the private sector.

Public sector growth (or overgrowth) during the last decade was due to the availability of funds from Arab aid and external borrowing on the one hand and to the urge for rapid economic and social development on the other.

Things are different now: Arab financial support declined steadily during the last four years, loans are becoming more expensive and less available and there is a lot of fast

development to digest and large scale projects to consolidate.

Therefore, the Jordanian government in its quest for curbing its public expenditure must rediscover the virtues of the private sector, because private investment is needed to fill the gap. Revitalisation of the private sector is therefore a timely policy, called for by actual circumstances, and officially adopted by the cabinet.

The first step should be an organised disengagement between the public sector and the private sector.

The country badly needs to draw the line between areas which must be left to the private sector, and those which must remain a government

responsibility.

The grey area between the public and the private sectors need definite parameters. There is no doubt that the public sector has a major role to play in the development efforts. The question is where should such a role stop.

Those who belong to the public-sector school of thought think that economic activities are currently loose, and that the government should expand its role and strengthen its control. Those who support the concept of market economy believe that the government has already exceeded its limit.

The trend for less government involvement is slowly gaining momentum but the resistance is formidable and deep rooted.

It is obvious that a political decision in support of the private sector economy has been taken. The government is committed to more incentives, protection of, and freedom for the private sector. However it is equally obvious that the bureaucracy does not favour this policy, and may obstruct implementation.

It is believed that if the private sector becomes convinced that the government is serious about the implementation of its declared policies on long term basis, the Jordanian economy may witness a new stage of fast economic recovery, led by private investment. The private sector has a lot of idle resources, which could, and should be activated.

Right step by the UAE

MORE important than the reason, or reasons, that led to the establishment of diplomatic relations between the United Arab Emirates and the Soviet Union is the recent trend in the Gulf towards such ties. This trend should continue if the Arab World is truly interested in strengthening its position vis-a-vis its enemies and detractors. And it is the only way to proceed in our declared policy of non-alignment and friendly and balanced relations with all nations, particularly the superpowers, on the basis of mutual respect and in the service of our peoples' legitimate interests and aspirations.

Coming on the heels of a similar step taken by Oman only a few weeks ago, the UAE's decision to establish ties with Moscow must be seen in the proper perspective. Kuwait was first among the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) members to formalise contacts with the Soviet Union. Then Oman took the step. And now the UAE.

All of these moves signify the trend in the Arab Gulf countries towards balance in their relations with the two superpowers. But this trend will not become truly significant until Saudi Arabia decides to do likewise and restores its ties with Moscow.

Any such decision by Riyadh is contingent on a number of factors, include first and foremost of which are America's policies in the Middle East. The U.S. cannot hope to be Israel's greatest supporter and at the same time the Arabs' exclusive friend. There would naturally come a time when the balance would have to be redressed, and what we are seeing today are important signs that this time is already upon us.

Saudi Arabia is not the kind of country that likes to flavour its policies with diplomatic surprises. It operates in a different manner and is highly unlikely to have refrained from giving an opinion on Oman and the UAE rapprochements with Moscow.

The message that Riyadh is sending to the U.S. and the rest of the world may not be so obvious to Washington and other capitals, but it is clear to us, and there is no question that the Saudis are very serious about it.

This is not to say that Moscow is, or can be used by the Arabs, as a vehicle to reach the Americans. The Soviet Union is a superpower and an important friend in its own right. That alone is good enough reason for all Arab countries to maintain diplomatic relations with the Soviets.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: A fabricated crisis

THE CRISIS in the Israeli cabinet has now ended with no convincing solution. Sharon remained a member of the cabinet and Peres failed to remove him from office and the Likud did not withdraw from the present coalition. Those who followed up news about the crisis can easily understand that it was a mere political game and its purpose was to present the Israeli government as being a democratic state which seeks to establish peace in the Middle East regardless of internal differences. It is hard to believe what the Israeli government leaders say these days, because they all are for continued occupation, for building settlements and for concluding bilateral treaties with Arab neighbours that would solve nothing. Not only Sharon but all the Zionist leaders and those outside the government hold these views and are intent to perpetuate occupation of Arab land. Peres and his Labour Party were the planners and the executors of a plan for occupying Arab territory in 1967, and therefore, are not different from their Likud partners in the present coalition. Both major parties are in agreement about all what is done and being implemented, although they seem sometimes to differ on views about methods of implementation. This fabricated crisis within the government was only to prevent Peres as a man of peace.

Al Dustour: More expectations

NOW THAT the Arab mediation committee has succeeded in bringing reconciliation between Jordan and Syria. It is hoped that it will be able to make similar successes elsewhere. People now hope that the committee will succeed in ending differences between Syria and Iraq and between Libya and Iraq. Success of the committee's mission is considered a success for leaders of Saudi Arabia and Morocco and to all the Arab leaders who took part in the Casablanca summit that formed the committee. The reconciliation is not an end by itself, but rather it is a means of bringing Arab countries together to cooperate in the face of the challenges and the Zionist onslaught. Differences among Arab states had been preventing the convening of an Arab summit for a long time, and therefore, once these differences are removed, the way will be paved for a successful summit where Arab heads of state can consider their problems in a more objective manner and find solutions for them. The Arab countries are more than at any time in the past in dire need of solidarity to achieve their national goals, and we hope that the Casablanca summit and the mediation committee will help the Arabs to attain their end.

Sawt Al Shaab: A show of love

KING HUSSEIN has lived 50 years amongst us and has done a great deal throughout his life to serve this nation which he loved. The festivities over the past two days, the decorated streets, the national songs and the processions were all an attempt to repay the King and to express the love of the people for their leader. But no matter how hard we try, we cannot express our true feelings, appreciation and gratitude to the King in recognition of his service for his people and his sacrifice for the Arab Nation. We hope that the Jordanian family will continue to maintain its unity behind its leader and continue to support King Hussein's policies and services for his nation. King Hussein has succeeded in serving his people and providing them with the means for further progress. Under the King's wise leadership we have done a great deal and made progress in many fields. We sincerely hope the King's wisdom will continue to lead us towards further progress.

Oman celebrates 15-year 'renaissance'

By Stephen Fidler

MUSCAT — Five million light bulbs in the red, green and white of the Omani flag illuminate this capital city, where 15 years ago people walked at night with lanterns.

The illuminations along highways and buildings are symbolic of what government officials call Oman's renaissance since Sultan Qaboos Bin Said succeeded his father in 1970.

Average income in this country of about one million people on the shores of the Arabian Sea has since risen 40-fold to about \$8,000 a year.

Built on oil, of which the country produces 500,000 barrels per day, the 15 years of growth will be celebrated on November 18. Oman's national day and Sultan Qaboos's 45th birthday.

As Oman remains vulnerable to oil price slides, diplomats and bankers say the major challenge ahead will be to satisfy newly aroused expectations in a land which one author likened 20 years ago to "a scabious old pie-dog asleep in the dust."

Testifying to a dramatic change from past isolationism, Oman has invited to the celebrations a number of world leaders — among them Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, Pakistani President Gen. Zia ul Haq and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Twenty years ago, only Britain and India had diplomatic missions in Muscat. Today, the flags of more than 30 nations fly in the capital, and Oman has now agreed to establish relations with the Soviet Union.

At the time, the Sultan's father, Said Bin Taimour, enforced vigorously a law forbidding people from walking at night without lanterns and only he could issue a car import licence.

According to government figures, there were only 10 km of asphalted road in Oman in 1970, three schools educating 900 children to primary-school level, and 12 hospital beds provided by the government for civilian use.

Today there are more than

3,300 km of asphalted highway, almost 200,000 pupils in 561 schools, and 2,600 civilian hospital beds provided by the government.

One such road, flanked by 1,797 Omani flags — one for each city, town and village in the Sultanate — leads to a \$232-million seahotel hotel opened for a summit meeting last week of the Gulf Cooperation Council (Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates and Oman).

The Sultan's father, 13th sultan of the Al Bu Said dynasty which has governed since 1749, was suspicious of his Arab neighbours and of most of the world. It was only in 1971 that his son took Oman into the United Nations.

Omani power in the early 1800s was built on trade, primarily in slaves. Oman was then the only non-European power to rule an empire in Africa, and it also held possessions in Asia.

One branch of the Al Bu Said family ruled Zanzibar until 1964. Six years earlier, Sultan Qaboos' father — short of cash as ever — had sold off Oman's last possession, Gwadar, to Pakistan for three million sterling (now \$4.2 million).

Trained at Britain's Sandhurst Military Academy but denied any role in running the country, Qaboos spent 1964-70 in his father's rundown palace at Salalah in the southern province of Dhofar, scene of a rebellion against central government.

Soon after taking over in a palace coup on July 23, 1970, backed by contract British officers — his father abdicated and spent the last two years of his life in exile in England — he changed the country's name in an attempt to heal historic differences between the coast and the interior. The Sultanate of Muscat and Oman became the Sultanate of Oman.

The Sultan also opened his country to the descendants of Omanis who had settled in east Africa. Better educated than their new compatriots, they helped Oman into the 20th century and added Swahili to a mix of languages, including the official Arabic, now heard around the capital.

Spain: Dictatorship to democracy

By Francois Raitberger

MADRID — When Francisco Franco died 10 years ago, Spain began a race from dictatorship to democracy and replaced 36 years of puritanical rule with a modern political system.

Sources close to King Juan Carlos, regarded as the keystone of democracy since he averted an attempted coup in 1981, say he himself marvels at how fast and peacefully Spain has changed.

Socialist Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez says Spanish democracy is "comparable with the rest of Western European countries."

Divorce and abortion laws, frank contraception advice on television and the existence of punks and squatters are examples of wide social changes.

The climate of a country bent on overcoming the tragic divisions of the past is shown by the open debate in the press and on state-owned television about Franco and the 1936-39 civil war.

However, the future was uncertain and many feared violence when the 83-year-old dictator died on November 20, 1975, surrounded by ultra-modern medical equipment and relics of saints.

This mixture of trust in science and hopes for a miracle summed up the contradictions arising from an economic boom which turned a poor, largely rural country into the world's 12th largest industrial power.

Politicians as far apart as former Franco minister Manuel Fraga and Communist leader Santiago Carrillo agree that the longing of the new middle class for both change and peace played a major part

in the smooth transition to democracy.

"The change started long before Franco died. Official Spain was an empty shell divorced from the real country," senior government information officer Fernando Puig said.

Spain, still scarred by the bloodletting and divisions of the civil war, woke up to the image of a relaxed Europe brought by millions of foreign tourists.

When Franco died, Spaniards still had to drive over the French border to see a naked breast in a film, though civil guards had long ceased chasing girls in bikinis off beaches.

"Francoism could not survive Franco," Fraga said.

There has been speculation that Franco had guessed and accepted as inevitable the change that would follow his death.

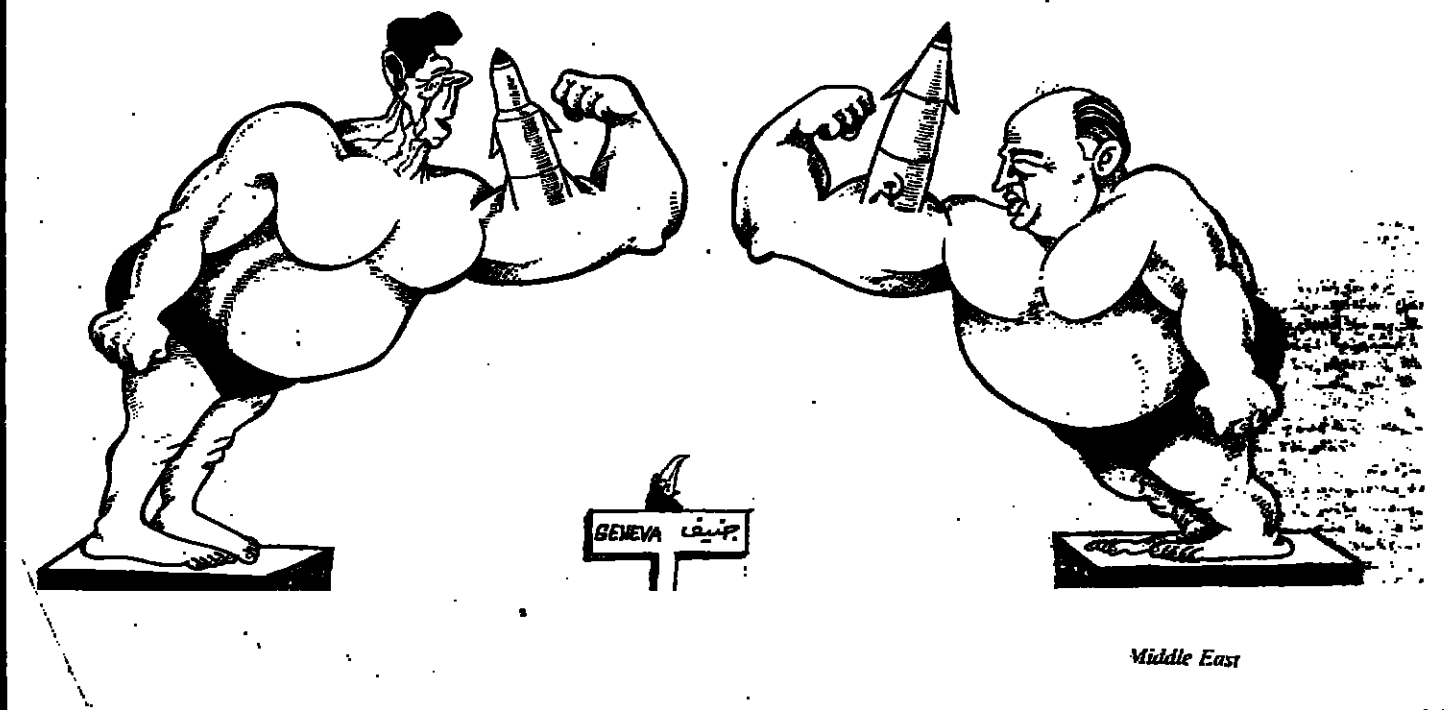
"I can assure you this is not so. He had not anticipated what was going to happen," said Joaquin Gutierrez Cano, Franco's former planning minister who now heads the private Franco Foundation perpetuating the dictator's memory.

Fraga once said he had Spain "tied up and well tied up." But the 1973 Basque guerrilla killing of his trusted prime minister Luis Carrero Blanco threw his plans in disarray.

His death gave King Juan Carlos, designated by Franco as his successor, a freer hand.

Carrillo, gearing up his clandestine and powerful Communist Party for struggle, believed the King would quickly pass into history as "Juan Carlos the brief."

He told Reuters he revised his judgement after receiving discreet



Chasm of distrust divides Reagan and Gorbachev before Geneva

By Nick Kotch

LONDON — The leaders of the two most powerful nations on earth will stage their much-heralded summit meeting this week in a climate of mutual distrust and with few signs that they can dispel it.

Hopes of any substantial accord emerging from Geneva, on reducing tension across the spectrum of superpower relations, have receded steadily during the countdown to the meeting.

Neither side has reported any breakthroughs on bridging the gap which divides Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev, whether on space defence, arms control, conflict in strategic trouble-spots or human rights.

The chasm is such that even a joint communiqué, with the leaders politely agreeing to disagree,

is unlikely to cap their eight hours of discussions next Tuesday and Wednesday.

Pessimism set in after marathon preparatory talks in Moscow 10 days ago, which failed to decide a summit agenda and degenerated into "vigorous" exchanges between the two camps.

Since he came to the White House in 1981, President Reagan has consistently rejected superpower summitry for its own sake. His meeting with Gorbachev will be the first with any of the four leaders in the Kremlin during the Reagan presidency.

The U.S. administration has argued that it is futile for the spokesman of two opposed ideologies to recite their known differences without agreeing on ways of reducing them.

Consular, cultural and aviation agreements at Geneva may be reached at Geneva, but both sides admit these would not satisfy expectations for the first U.S.-Soviet summit since 1979.

Yet in the present mood, the 3,000 journalists gathered in Geneva may end up recording just such a failure.

Divergent expectations in Washington and Moscow may explain why the obstacles blocking real agreement are so formidable.

With the king's backing, Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez, a former head of Franco's National Movement, braved the wrath of senior Francoist generals and legalised the Communist Party.

In prudent voting, Spaniards kept Suarez's centrist coalition in power in 1977 and 1979 elections. By the time he resigned in 1981, there was virtually nothing left of Franco's centralised, authoritarian system.

In that year, rebel civil guards stormed parliament in a desperate bid to turn the clock back. "They believed the country wanted it. They saw they were wrong," a top source said. The coup attempt crashed against the king's firm support of democracy and Francoists failed to win a single seat in general elections the following year.

The 1982 poll brought to power the Socialists and a new generation born after the civil war.

The military, chastised by the Socialists and kept busy by the increasing technical demands made on it by Spain's entry into NATO, stopped meddling in politics.

Politicians across the spectrum agree that democracy is here to stay. The European Community gave its long-awaited stamp of approval by accepting Spain's membership from 1986.

"Spain is now a much better country to live in than it ever was. It is also, for the first time in two centuries a solid piece of the Western world," Gonzalez said in a recent speech.

on nuclear arms. And most of all, they want to outlaw what they call the "militarisation of space."

For Reagan, the strategic defence initiative (SDI) which he launched in 1983, is a vision of a perfect defence in space, making nuclear missiles "impotent and obsolete."

For Gorbachev SDI, or "Star Wars", is the single greatest threat to mankind which would destroy the nuclear balance and trigger an arms race of unknown dimensions.

Reagan says the 26-billion-dollar programme will one day provide the whole world, including the Soviet Union if the Kremlin agrees, with an impregnable shield in space.

Since missiles would fail to penetrate it, the superpowers and their allies could stop wasting money on nuclear arms. SDI would be kept as a high-tech "gas mask," Reagan says, in case a madman tried to launch a nuclear attack.

Reagan says SDI research is not negotiable at Geneva. But there are no plans to start testing yet, in accordance with what Washington says is a restrictive and gentlemanly reading of the 1972 anti-ballistic missile (ABM) treaty.

Reagan and his aides dismiss Moscow's attacks on SDI. They say far more Soviet scientists are engaged in identical research and U.S. sources suggest the real reason for Kremlin alarm is that American scientists might make the first breakthroughs.

Negotiable or not, the SDI issue hangs over the summit, more like a cloud than a shield. Soviet statements imply that little else is worth discussing.

According to Gorbachev, SDI will force both sides to invest billions of dollars to perfect space defences, and even more sophisticated offensive weapons to penetrate them.

Six days before the summit he forecast a new low in relations if the U.S. went ahead with the programme. He has insisted that no arms control agreement is possible unless SDI is abandoned.

Gorbachev's stance comes at a time when, eight months after superpower arms talks resumed in Geneva, both sides are proposing 50-per-cent cuts in offensive nuclear missiles.

Strong differences about how and where to make those cuts remain but Reagan's comment that there were "seeds to nurture" in the Soviet proposal suggest they could be overcome.

However, any progress on arms at Geneva will require a radical shift from either or both parties on SDI. None of the millions of words pouring out of both capitals in rec-

ent weeks has given any hint of that happening.

The only apparent volte-face, when Reagan told Soviet journalists that the U.S. would not deploy SDI until all nuclear arms were eliminated, was instantly withdrawn. There had been "presidential imprecision," not a policy change, a White House spokesman said.

Powerful factors have doused hopes for any meeting of minds in Geneva, let alone a formal agreement. But there were some grounds for optimism, too.

Reagan, in a stream of interviews and speeches, has moved away from the tub-thumping anti-Communism he once employed, as when he called the Soviet Union an evil empire.

He urged an end to "paranoia" and repeated that it was better to talk to each other than about each other.

The Soviet leadership, while sustaining its tough and at times virulent attacks on Washington, also showed flexibility.

A Soviet interview with Reagan, the first with a U.S. president since 1961, was read almost uncut by ordinary Soviets.

On human rights, the Kremlin appeared to respond to Western criticism by granting the wife of dissident Andrei Sakharov permission to leave for medical treatment.

Analysts agreed that, despite wide-scale pessimism, both leaders had incentives to reach compromise.

President Reagan, at 74 and with question marks over his health, is in his final term. High in the popularity ratings at home, his place in history might depend on forging a peaceful relationship between the East and West blocs.

His NATO allies, despite fully endorsing U.S. preparations for the summit, want him to seize the opportunity.

Like many Americans, European NATO diplomats would regard the summit as a limited success if the two leaders thrashed out their problems in detail and agreed to meet again.

Gorbachev, at 54 the youngest and most dynamic leader in the Kremlin for decades, has shown since coming to power last March that his priority at home is revitalising the Soviet economy.

If defence expenditure is not checked, because superpower antagonisms persist, Gorbachev will not have the resources to modernise Soviet society and raise living standards.

Predictions before the summit emphasised there were still arguments against expecting an improvement in superpower relations. But at least each man would know his adversary a little better.

A night among the dead and dying in Colombia

Reuter correspondent Phil Davison, together with Reuter photographer Bob Strong and a Colombian television crew, were among the first reporters to reach the devastated Colombian town of Armero on Thursday afternoon. This is their account of a night among the dead and dying.

By Phil Davison
Reuter

ARMERO, Colombia — At least 15,000 people had died, hundreds more were dying and, as I tried to sleep among the ghost-like survivors of the Colombia volcano disaster, I felt as though I had died myself.

Huddled on the cold, bare hilltop, known locally as *la loma* (the hill), every time I looked up I saw deathly figures — old men, women, and children, caked in dried grey mud, their hair stiff, only their eyeballs visible in the night to suggest they were still alive.

Candles, the only source of light, made the atmosphere even more eerie.

More candles, and a few torches, were visible on nearby hilltops, where the several thousand

survivors of the avalanche huddled, without food or water, waiting for rescue.

I had covered wars, revolutions and more recently September's earthquake in Mexico, but this was the most moving disaster I had seen. So many people dead, so many dying, so many more likely to die in a relatively small place.

I had arrived in a small helicopter just before dark on Friday. Even as I jumped from its door, scores of injured survivors tried to board.

The pilot, a private citizen too modest to give his name but one of many unknown heroes here, could take only four injured with two of their relatives crushed in beside them.

I did not know then that it was the last helicopter to come to Armero on Thursday. Night fell and I joined the walking wounded

on a trek to the highest hilltop.

Reporters avoid personal involvement in the news, trying only to report the facts but this was different.

Most of the survivors, many almost naked, covered in mud, trembling and shocked, could not help each other. Each tried only to stay alive on the hilltop, sometimes wailing, often crying for water. There was none.

So it was that I found myself carrying dying survivors up a steep, muddy slope to *la loma*. Not that there was anything there. But it was several hundred feet above Armero and the villagers, cold, hungry and desperately thirsty, and who feared another landslide or an eruption of lava from the Nevado del Ruiz volcano, felt fractionally safer there.

Just after dark, I spotted two figures huddled in a clearing about 30 meters below us. I scrambled down in pitch blackness, sliding through the mud, to find an old man in a foetal position, wrapped in a white sheet, and a little girl, maybe eight years old, pretty as a pearl, but both unconscious, covered

in flies and simply waiting to die.

I shouted for help and a few young, numbed survivors came down. The girl, mumbling "mami" (mummy), had broken a leg, possibly her spine, and had a gash that revealed the inside of her right thigh.

We got both of them to a hilltop where they lay unnoticed by their shocked fellow survivors.

It was 20 hours after the initial catastrophe but there were no doctors, no nurses, no officials and no one who cared.

Without water or medicine, we nursed the seriously wounded to try to keep them alive but by dawn, about a dozen people had died.

Photographer Bob Strong spent that night among more shivering survivors, some of whom rested on corrugated iron sheets torn from a roof by the volcano's fury, where they lay beneath scraps of clothing salvaged from what was left of Armero.

More people huddled together under a makeshift shack Thursday night, marooned on an island in a

sea of mud.

Twenty people who saw their homes swept away by the avalanche on Wednesday were passing their second night in the open nearby.

For food they split coconuts with machetes and broke open bottles of wine that somehow survived the devastation.

A steady drizzle and a background chorus of groans from injured victims, pinned down by rubble or corpses, added to the desolation.

"Help me, help me, I'm injured," the voices cried into the cold night air.

At first light, army helicopters flew in to resume rescue operations, plucking a naked woman and her baby from the mud.

As the airlift broke off Thursday night, survivors scrambled to board the last helicopters. Some had to be pushed away by worried crewmen.

The old man and the girl barely survived to the morning.

I covered her with my jacket. I asked her name, "Carmen," she appeared to say but she was delirious and close to death.

After more than 12 hours on the hilltop with a cold wind and occasional drizzle, I persuaded a few survivors to help me carry her to a plain where the first helicopters of Thursday were landing.

Trekking from Armero through mud and bush to the next village, Guayabal, I realised I would never know whether they survived.

At dawn, I saw that only a few hundred houses and the cemetery had survived the avalanche.

Luis Eduardo Herrera, owner of the *Imerio* cateria, who had huddled beside me dressed only in underwear and a thin tattered shawl, gazed down and showed me the spot where his cafe had been. There was nothing there.

He had fled when he heard the first rumble of the volcano.

"At first, I thought I would take a few beers with me," he said, "but then I looked up and saw this huge mass of darkness approaching, sort of like a black cloud, but rising from the ground instead of the sky. I dropped the beers and got out. *Gracias a Dios* (Thank God)."

Brother of China's last emperor remembers

By Graham Earnshaw
Reuter

PEKING — In an old courtyard house in northern Peking lives one of China's few remaining links with its imperial past — Pu Ji, brother of the last emperor, Henry Pu Yi.

If two revolutions and two world wars had not intervened, Pu Ji would have been a senior member of the imperial government and could perhaps have succeeded his brother on the dragon throne. But the Manchu dynasty collapsed when he was five years old.

Instead of the magnificent silk robes of Manchu nobles in the old days, 78-year-old Pu Ji now wears a well-tailored Mao suit over his frail frame.

Instead of power, he wields nothing more than a calligraphy brush for a constant stream of visitors wanting a sample of imperial penmanship.

"It was an extraordinary lifestyle and our standard of living was very high, to be sure," Pu Ji told Reuters, his rich Mandarin accent pointing to his origins in the claustrophobic but cultured world of the imperial court.

"But it wasn't free. We never left our mansion except on special occasions. We could never go out on our own to watch an opera or to enjoy ourselves."

"Of course, at the time, I didn't think about myself as lacking freedom. I didn't envy people outside because I had never seen them. That is how our life was, it was idiotic."

The empire ended in 1911. But the way the emperor and his retinue lived remained much the same for 13 more years, and Pu Ji spent his childhood doted upon by dozens of servants.

The life of the emperor Pu Yi, one year older than Pu Ji, was so heavily regulated that the two brothers did not meet until Pu Ji was 10 years old.

The restrictions were relaxed a bit after the empire ended and one of our father's wives suggested we get together.

"I had always imagined the emperor to be an old man, but when I got to the palace, I found he was a little boy like me."

"When I was about 15, I used to go to the palace every morning to study with him. We did that for about two years. Then he got married, and it stopped."

Pu Ji added: "We got on very

well. After all, we were children. But it was still like he was in heaven and I was on earth. I had to call him "Your Majesty", and it was the 1950s before I started calling him brother."

Pu Ji was with Pu Yi while he was emperor of the Japanese puppet state of Manchukuo in northeast China from 1934 to 1945 and then during five years of captivity in the Soviet Union.

Pu Ji died in 1967 after spending a number of years atoning for his past by working as a mechanic at a botanical garden in the Chinese capital.

At a celebrated meeting in 1960 the late premier Chou Enlai asked Pu Ji what he wanted to do with the rest of his life.

"I gave him the officially correct response: 'I don't mind — agricultural factory work, anything.' He smiled and said: 'You don't have to say that. What would you really like to do?'" "I said I liked literature, so I was made a member of a literary committee."

Today, Pu Ji represents China's 4.3 million ethnic Manchus on a number of committees and draws a salary of about 250 yuan (\$78) a month from the Communist government which also provides him with two housekeepers.

He is not impressed with suggestions that constitutional monarchy like that in some Western countries could have worked in China.

"The nature of the English monarchy, for instance, is very different from the autocratic system of the old Chinese empire," he said.

Pu Ji spends much time at the bedside of his ailing wife, a Japanese aristocrat who was married to him as part of Japan's efforts to forge an empire on the Asian mainland.

His surviving daughter lives in Kobe with her Japanese husband and five children, and occasionally visits.

"I am in the process of writing my memoirs, but I don't know when they will be finished," he said. "I have so many things to do, and my wife is very sick. People keep pressing me to get it done, but it progresses at the pace of an ox-cart."

Pu Ji says he would like to spend more time watching traditional Peking opera, a distinctively Chinese art form popular in the old imperial court.

France develops missiles for 21st century 'Star Wars'

By Gavin Bell
Reuter

PARIS — France is heading for the stars with a new range of nuclear weaponry aimed at penetrating and ultimately destroying any space-based defence system the Soviet Union may deploy by the turn of the century.

An intensive research programme into ways of overwhelming a "Star Wars" anti-missile shield has emerged as the principal response of French military strategists to President Reagan's strategic defence initiative (SDI).

Defence Minister Paul Quilès provided financial backing for the new policy this month by allocating 25.2 billion francs (\$3.4 billion) for updating nuclear forces in 1986 — an increase of 7.7 per cent over this year and equivalent to one-third of the entire budget for military equipment.

A few days later, he told the National Institute for Defence Studies: "The more the two superpowers focus on strategic defence programmes, the more the penetration capacity of our missiles becomes the fundamental criteria for the credibility of our nuclear deterrent."

Having decided not to join the American project, France's Socialist leaders are clearly resolved to beat it, thereby creating a curious paradox.

They repeatedly condemned SDI because in their view it would escalate the arms race, and then promptly stepped up their own efforts to develop a new generation of offensive nuclear weapons to counter it.

A priority target is to produce an array of miniaturised warheads for arming missiles in an advanced strategic nuclear submarine due to

enter service in 1994. According to Quilès, French scientists believe that by then they can perfect a missile that would be virtually impossible to detect by radar.

Related studies are aimed at protecting missiles from laser weapons, exhausting enemy defences with rockets and blinding radars with nuclear explosions.

Significantly, the minister's unusually detailed briefing was presented to the private institute, and made available to journalists, only a few days before this week's U.S.-Soviet summit in Geneva.

In an apparent cautionary note to the superpowers, Quilès added that France was reserving the possibility of developing a weapons system designed to circumvent any eventual Soviet space-based strategic defence.

Military sources said this was a reference to low-level supersonic missiles aimed at sneaking under a space shield.

The minister made it clear that the strategic submarine fleet, by virtue of its ability to strike from hidden and relatively safe locations, formed the spearhead of France's deterrent.

Its nuclear firepower increased enormously last May with the deployment of a new submarine carrying 16 M-4 missiles, each armed with six independently-targetable warheads with a range of more than 4,000 km.

Four of the other five submarines in the fleet are due to be equipped with the latest missiles by 1991, raising the total of warheads to almost 500.

Independent experts say it is impossible to assess French prospects of overwhelming a Soviet space shield until the specifics of any such defence system are

known.

However one told Reuters: "The French are up to the mark in high technology, and they are spending a large amount of money on the project. Given time and finances, they could produce something that at least would put grave doubts in the mind of an adversary. I certainly would not laugh it off by any means."

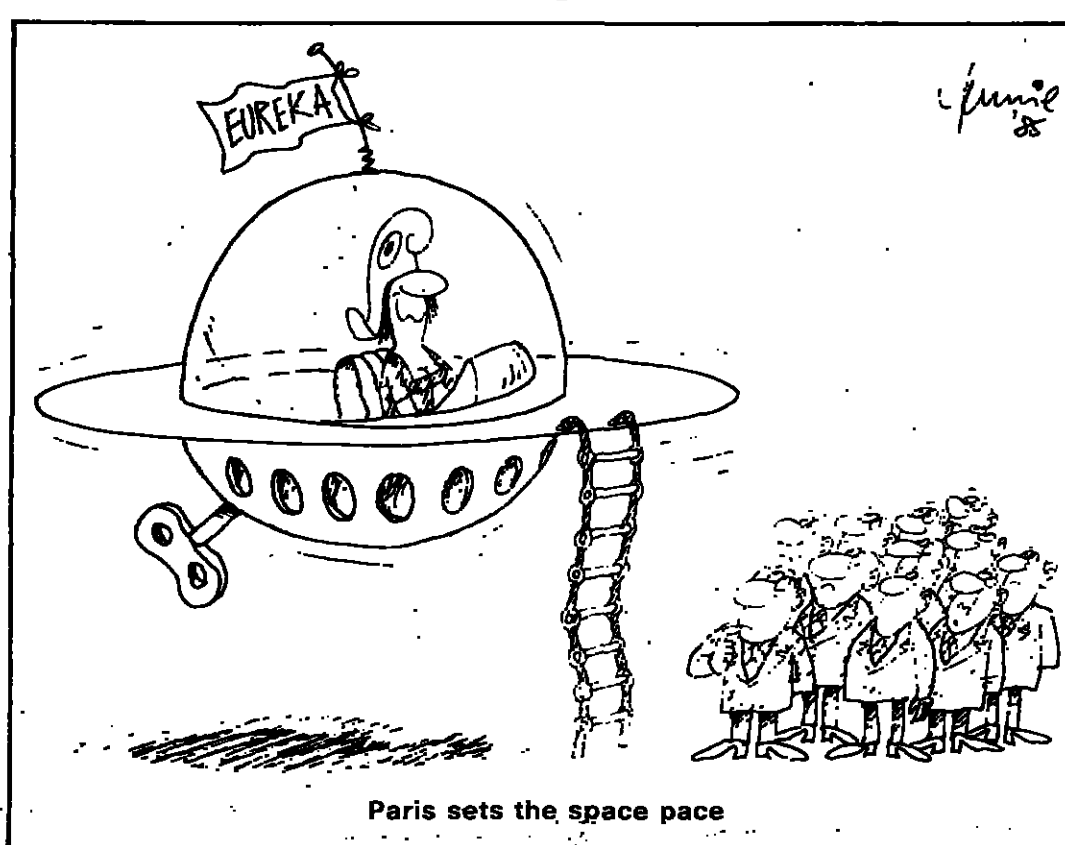
So France's military response to SDI seems assured — for the time being. But the Socialist government is not expected to survive national elections next March and the right-wing opposition has a very different perception of Washington's initiative.

Defence policy documents issued by the two main opposition parties, the neo-Gaullist RPR and the centre-right UDF, broadly favoured joining the American project. The RPR also suggested France should develop missiles to destroy low-orbit satellites.

UDF defence spokesman Jean-Marie Daillet told the National Assembly: "The next government will have to open negotiations with its European partners with a view to achieving a common stand on participation in the SDI."

Former Prime Minister Raymond Barre, a leading opposition figure with aspirations to the presidency, takes an even stronger line than his UDF associates and believes the Europeans should launch their own "Star Wars" programme.

Already the Socialists' opposition to SDI has been coming under fire from major state-owned corporations, not satisfied with President Francois Mitterrand's alternative project for high technology civilian research dubbed "Eureka".



Paris sets the space pace

Any right-wing government which is elected next spring could rewrite Quilès' budget, although Mitterrand is resolved to remain in office until presidential elections in 1988 — and his titles include supreme commander of the armed forces.

Hence uncertainty over France's military strategy in the space-age, and another paradox — it could find itself in the position of helping to build a space-based missile shield while producing weapons to penetrate and destroy it.

The loneliness of the long-distance rhino

Both the black and the northern white rhino are under threat from poachers. As herds decrease in size they break up and form pockets, making it less likely that individuals will meet and reproduce. Lucy Vigne is the Nairobi-based coordinator of the World Wildlife Fund's rhino conservation programme.

NAIROBI, Kenya — The future of the African rhino is bleak, and for the foreseeable future protecting these animals will remain very, very expensive.

The 1970s witnessed a 50 per cent decline in the number of black African rhinos, with an additional 40 per cent decline over the past four years. The northern white rhino sub-species is nearly extinct. The southern white rhino, after a population crash at the turn of the century, has recovered well due to careful management. This offers hope that all is not yet lost for the black rhino, despite trends.

White rhinos graze on grass, whereas the black rhino browses on the foliage of bushes. Of the two, the white rhino is the more predictable and gregarious.

How do you count rhinos? Kas Hilman, then chairman of the Rhino Specialist Group at the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural

Resources (IUCN), conducted the first thorough pan-African rhino survey in 1979. She sent questionnaires to all African countries with rhinos, specifically to wildlife departments and to field researchers. Data were collected on rhino numbers and ranges for each country. David Western, chairman of the IUCN African Elephant and Rhino Specialist Group, completed a similar survey in November 1984.

The total black rhino population is estimated at 8,000-9,000, down from 14,000-15,000 in 1980. Only two populations, those in Luangwa Valley, Zambia, and in the Selous Game Reserve, Tanzania, exceed 1,000.

In the 1970s, East Africa was hard hit by poaching. The early 1980s saw increased supplies of military weapons and political instability spreading from Uganda to Sudan, Chad, Zaire and Ethiopia, developments which led to inc-

reased rhino slaughter. Highly organised poaching gangs have reduced the black rhinos to less than 400 in the area covered by these countries, one-tenth of the number there five years ago.

The Central African Republic, where poaching gangs have until recently been hunting undisturbed, has witnessed the most dramatic decline in rhino numbers. So 60 per cent of the black rhinos remaining are in East and Central Africa, and this area, from Kenya to Zambia, is therefore a haven for the animal.

Garamba National Park in Zaire is the last stronghold for the northern white rhino, which has dropped from 600 to 30 since 1980. The southern white rhino has increased by 1,000 over the same period, due to careful management. One successful technique is to maintain the number of rhino in a given area at a level below the carrying capacity of the land, to encourage the maximum level of reproduction.

As the species declines in number, herds tend to fragment into small groups, often leaving indi-

viduals to wander on their own. Fewer of these solitary rhinos are likely to meet and mate. Most rhinos now exist in isolated populations of less than 50, and these populations continue to decline and break up.

A primary goal of conservationists is to prevent poaching. Although expensive, electric fencing is the surest method for keeping small rhino areas safe. Such sanctuaries already exist in Kenya, where eighty-five kilometres of electric fence surrounds a rhino population in Nakuru National Park. The fence cost \$675,000; similar sanctuaries will be developed in other areas if enough money can be found.

What incentive is there for hard-pressed African governments to allocate money for rhino reserves when there are so many other demands on their budgets? Kenya, which has instituted reserves, makes \$180-200 million per year from tourism. Half of this sum flows from tourism in the country's national parks. Within the parks, the main attractions are the "big five": rhino, elephant, lion, leopard and buffalo.

A technique for tracking and monitoring rhino, devised by Dr. Norman Owen-Smith in South Africa, may eventually be used in other parts of Africa to catch poachers. Owen-Smith inserts a radio transmitter into the rhino's horn, and can then record the animal's movements. Poachers who had killed rhino could also be tracked, since the transmitter would continue sending signals.

Dr. Esmond Bradley Martin, head of the World Wildlife Fund's new rhino conservation project, has found that over 50 per cent of Africa's rhino horn goes to North Yemen to be made into dagger handles. The rest goes to Eastern Asia for use in traditional medicines. Martin believes that the trade in rhino products can be curtailed by encouraging the use of substitutes. — Earthscan feature.



African black rhino: Decreasing and scattered rhino populations make it more difficult for individual

animals to meet and mate (Photo by Barbara Cheney — Earthscan)

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United falters again, contenders gain ground

LONDON (R) — Manchester United, for so long runaway leaders of the English first division, are beginning to take on the look of a hunted stag.

LONDON (R) — Manchester United, for so long runaway leaders of the English first division, are beginning to take on the look of a hunted stag.

While they were being held to a goalless draw at home by Tottenham Saturday, several of the chasing pack won to eat into their healthy lead.

Liverpool, United's nearest challengers, came from a goal down at home to bottom club West Bromwich to win 4-1 and are now just five points behind the leaders.

Other title contenders to collect three points were Chelsea, third after a 3-1 success at Newcastle; West Ham; defending champions Everton, who came from 2-0 down to beat Ipswich 4-3; and Arsenal.

United, who lost their 15-match unbeaten league record by losing to Sheffield Wednesday last week, battered away remorselessly at Tottenham's defence.

But the North London side, anxious to put behind them a dismal run which has seen them slip into the bottom half of the table, weathered the storm to salvage a point.

Liverpool, keen to regain the league crown they last won in the 1983-84 season, have a knack of coming good after an indifferent

start to the season.

They increased the pressure on Manchester United with a flurry of goals after being stung into action by Garth Crooks' headed goal for West Brom in the 38th minute.

Steve Nicol equalised on the stroke of half-time and second half-goals by Jan Molby, Mark Lawrenson and Paul Walsh completed the bottom club's misery.

Ipswich, only one place better off than West Brom, looked on their way to an unexpected win over Everton when Mich D'Avray and Kevin Wilson put them two ahead after half an hour.

But Everton stormed back with goals by Adrian Heath, Graeme Sharp and Kevin Sheedy before England defender Terry Butcher, playing his game for two months, injected new life into Ipswich with a third. However, Everton were not to be denied, a late penalty by Trevor Steven clinching their win.

Frank McAvennie, the division's leading scorer, took his tally to 15 with the first in West Ham's 2-1 defeat of Watford. An unbeaten 13-match run has taken West Ham into fourth spot.

Arsenal, who suffered a humiliating 6-1 defeat at Everton last week, regained some face with a 2-1 home victory over Oxford which keeps them on the fringe of the title race.

Playing with a zest which was missing at Goodison Park last week, Arsenal tied up the points with first-half goals by England striker Tony Woodcock and Paul Davis.

Kerry Dixon, criticised for his performance in England's goalless World Cup draw with Northern Ireland on Wednesday, collected his 14th goal of the season in Chelsea's hard-fought win at Newcastle.

He and Nigel Spackman scored in the final 12 minutes to sustain the Londoners' championship challenge.

Manchester City, living very much in the shadow of their illustrious neighbours this season, scored the best win of the day over Nottingham Forest — the side with the best record in the first division over the past six games.

City, languishing near the foot of the table, won 2-0 thanks to goals by Clive Wilson and Paul Simpson.

Coventry were also surprise winners. They ended Luton's unbeaten home league run on their artificial Kenilworth Road pitch when David Bowman scored the only goal in the 35th minute.

North Korean joint Olympic bid rejected

HANOI (R) — International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Juan Antonio Samaranch has again rejected a North Korean demand that the 1988 Olympics be run jointly by Seoul and Pyongyang but said he saw no indication of a boycott by the Socialist Bloc.

Samaranch said that North Korean Sports Minister Kim Yu Sun repeated the North Korean request during a meeting of the sports ministers of 12 socialist countries which ended here Friday.

He added that there was no indication that the socialist countries were preparing an Olympic boycott. He said their athletes were training very hard for the Games.

Seoul was selected four years ago as the venue for the 1988 Games but North Korea has insisted the games be split between North and South and that the Koreans field a joint Olympic team.

The sports ministers reaffirmed their support for the North Korean proposal at their meeting here which began on Nov. 12.

"We always have some problems but with the cooperation of all national Olympic committees I think they can be solved and we really expect to have very successful Games in 1988," Samaranch said.

Becker squeaks past Jarryd to London final

LONDON (R) — Boris Becker survived two close tiebreaks against fifth seed Anders Jarryd to reach the London Indoor Tennis Championship final Saturday.

But the young West German's usually irresistible all-court game looked fragile and Becker himself admitted after his 7-6, 7-6 semi-final victory: "The only good thing today was that I won."

His ever-present manager Ion Tiriac agreed.

Asked by Reuters to assess the Wimbledon champion's prospects if Ivan Lendl were his opponent in Sunday's final, the dour Romanian said: "If he carries on playing like this, he'll get three games."

Becker, who was in demonic form against unseeded American Mike Leach in Friday's quarter-finals, was having trouble with his passes and volleys.

But he served 15 aces, five in the tiebreaks which he won 11-9 and 7-4.

Asked what went wrong Saturday in particular, Becker said: "Everything in particular. I was serving well but everything must be better tomorrow if I'm to play Lendl."

Swedish Davis Cup player Jarryd was in top form by comparison and boosted his chance of the second singles slot behind Mats Wilander in next month's final against

West Germany. Swedish team captain Hans Olsson said: "This is definitely one of the best matches Jarryd has played in his career."

That despite a five-minute interruption when the Swede, struggling to hold serve at 4-3 down in the first set, twisted his left ankle in an awkward turn.

He received a code violation for "unreasonable delay" while his ankle was strapped, but returned with renewed vigour to stave off break point and win the game with two straight aces.

Becker drew first blood in the 74-minute first set, breaking Jarryd's serve in the second game. The Swede broke back immediately, but not before Becker had saved two break points against him with two winning serves.

Becker broke again in the sixth game with a superbly angled volley after Jarryd lost his cool over a foot fault call.

The Swede again levelled and games went with serve to 6-5 when Becker had a point for the set. But errors were creeping in and he fluffed a service return.

Becker won the tiebreak on his fifth set point after Jarryd had received another warning from the umpire, for racket abuse.

A break apiece in the second set forced the tiebreak which Becker won on his first match point.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

What would Lenin think?

MOSCOW (R) — A Soviet newspaper told the nation's footballers Saturday that celebrating a goal by kissing was a decadent Western habit which had to stop. The daily Sovetsky Sport also urged soccer players to swap "garish" foreign-made kit for more traditional strip with red emblems and to behave with dignity on the field. It said that goal-scorers "fall down on their knees and... sway like dervishes at a prayer session," while "teammates, in a frenzy of kissing," throw him to the ground. "They kiss the prostrate player with such passion that it is a wonder they don't end up injuring him," the paper said.

Syria's hopes of reaching Mexico fade

DAMASCUS (R) — The Syrian press lamented Saturday that their World Cup soccer team had squandered the chance to beat Iraq and gain an edge for a place in the finals in Mexico. Al Baath newspaper, reporting a goalless draw in the first leg in Damascus Friday, said Syria "missed victory although their chances against Iraq were better and more dangerous." Al Baath and the government daily Tishrin both said Syria faced a difficult task in the second leg, to be played in Taif, Saudi Arabia, on Nov. 29. Iraq, unbeaten against Syria, remain overwhelming favourites to reach Mexico.

Alia Soccer Cup competition begins

AMMAN (J.T.) — In the first match of the Alia Soccer Cup, a three-week championship series organised by Alia. The Royal Jordanian Airline, for its employees, the Department of Air Services, the Financial Department 6-1 Saturday at Petra Playground. The Alia Soccer Tournament was organised by Alia's Department of Internal Relations and includes teams from all sections and departments of the company. The cup competition is one of Alia's efforts to participate in and strengthen the sports movement in Jordan.

W. Germany seeks reversal of slide in World Cup play

BONN (R) — West German manager Franz Beckenbauer has turned to two teenagers to help end a poor run of results in the final World Cup qualifier against Czechoslovakia on Sunday.

West Germany have already qualified from Group Two for next year's finals in Mexico along with Portugal, so only pride will be at stake in Munich's Olympic Stadium.

The West Germans have failed to win their last five games and Beckenbauer plans to give Olaf Thon and Ludwig Kogel, both 19, their chance to stake a claim for a regular place.

Both have already appeared as substitutes but this time they will line up from the start. Thon, the hugely talented Schalke midfielder, gets the responsibility of filling the playmaker spot vacated by the disappointing Felix Magath.

But he brings back another of his youngsters, 21-year-old Borussia Moenchengladbach left-back Michael Frontzeck.

Kogel, Bayern Munich's tricky little winger, has the task of adding punch to an attack which has scored just twice in those five games, four of which ended in defeat.

Fortunately for Beckenbauer.

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AMMAN LITTLE LEAGUE

Soccer Cup results

Tots		
Semi-finals:	Cairo Amman 1 Alico 1	Nashashibi-Ebbini 0 Jordan Express 0 (Penalties)
Final:	Cairo Amman 3	Alico 1 (Penalties)
Juniors		
First Round:	Near East Equipment 2 Istiklal Library 1	American Express 0 International Traders 0
Semi-finals:	Istiklal Library 1 Sakura 2	Marriott 0 Near East Equipment 0 Istiklal Library 0
Final:	Sakura 3	
Mids		
First Round:	Eriasson 3 Goodyear 2	Peugeot 0 Volvo 1
Semi-finals:	Astra 3 Goodyear 2	Al Ahlyah 2 Eriasson 1 Goodyear 0
Final:	Astra 2	
Seniors		
First-round:	Joliff 13 Chase Manhattan 6	Intercon 2 Squibb 1
Semi-finals:	Chase Manhattan 6 Joliff 7	Lego 2 PACC 0
Final:	Chase Manhattan 4	Joliff 2 (Penalties)

Everton overcomes 2-goal deficit to defeat Ipswich

LONDON (R) — Defending English soccer champions Everton survived a tough test of their character Saturday.

They covered from giving lowly Ipswich a two-goal start at Portman Road to win a seven-goal thriller.

Ipswich, boosted by the return of England defender Terry Butcher after an absence of two months through injury, struck twice in the first half hour.

Mich D'Avray collected his first goal of the season in the sixth minute and Kevin Wilson deepened the champions' blushes with a second — a 25-minute drive which curled past goalkeeper Neville Southall.

Everton began their recovery in the 34th minute when Adrian Heath headed home from close range after a corner by Kevin Sheedy had been nodded on by Trevor Steven.

Ipswich's assurance evaporated

as the game wore on and two minutes into the second half Graeme Sharp headed home at the far post from a Sheedy free kick.

Almost inevitably, Everton scored again in the 58th minute. Sheedy, at the heart of most of his side's best moves, collected a throw-in, weaved his way into the penalty area and beat Paul Cooper with a low drive.

Butcher, returning after a knee operation, revived Ipswich's sagging morale by heading in Purney's cross in the 72nd minute and three minutes later the Ipswich crowd was jubilant when D'Avray again got the better of the Everton defence in the air to head home. But the fans' joy was short-lived, the goal being ruled out for an infringement.

The Everton winner came 12 minutes from the end when Cooper pulled down Gary Lineker, who was clean through. Steven coolly slotted home the penalty.

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LA SSITER

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<p>Cinema CONCORD</p> <p>Tel: 677420</p> <p>RAMADAN OVER THE VOLCANO (Arabic) (Colour)</p> <p>Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p>Cinema RAINBOW</p> <p>Tel: 625155</p> <p>LA SSITER (Colour)</p> <p>Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 9:00</p>	<p>Cinema AL-HUSSEIN</p> <p>Tel: 22117</p> <p>RAMADAN OVER THE VOLCANO (Arabic) (Colour)</p> <p>Performances: 12-3, 5:30-8</p>	<p>Cine Theatre Philadelphia</p> <p>Tel: 34144-34149</p> <p>TRIPPLE CROSS (Colour)</p> <p>Shows at 3:30/6:30/9:15</p>	<p>Cinema RAGHADAN</p> <p>Tel: 22198</p> <p>BEVERLY HILLS COP (Colour)</p> <p>Performances: 12-3-5:30-8</p>	<p>Cinema OPERA</p> <p>Tel: 676672</p> <p>"AMANI" UNDER RAINBOW (Arabic)</p> <p>Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30</p> <p>Abdali, behind Alia offices</p>
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IMF head warns against overstimulating demand

WASHINGTON (R) — International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Jacques De Larosiere said Friday night that monetary discipline must be continued if inflation is to be kept under control in the industrial world.

Money controls should be flexible enough to adjust to changing economic conditions in the period ahead, he said. "but a shift in the primary focus of monetary policy in the industrial countries toward active stimulation of aggregate demand would inevitably lead to a resurgence of inflation."

He also called upon the United States to take the lead in reducing its huge budget deficit as a step towards global economic healing.

"By virtue of its size alone, the United States must take the lead by significantly reducing its structural 'budgetary imbalance,'" Mr. De Larosiere said.

"Such action," he continued, "would contribute to a needed lowering of interest rates worldwide, to an orderly reduction in the exchange value of the dollar, and to the necessary correction in the U.S. current account deficit."

Mr. De Larosiere spoke at an economic conference in Columbia, South Carolina, and his remarks were made available by his Washington office.

China plans to broaden free private food markets

PEKING (R) — China plans a billion-dollar programme over five years to expand the number of markets where food is sold privately, the China Daily said Saturday.

It said between 20,000 and 30,000 new free markets, with shelters, stalls, warehouses and running water, would open by 1990. China now has about 60,000 such markets.

Investment by local authorities and private citizens will be three to four billion renminbi (\$0.9 to \$1.2 billion), the newspaper quoted an official of the State Industrial and Commercial Administration as saying.

The goal is to give every town dweller access to the markets which are replacing state run shops as the chief suppliers of vegetables, fish, poultry and eggs.

Prices on the free markets, now about 10 per cent higher than in the less well-supplied state shops, have increased sharply over the past year.

According to a survey of 70 markets, prices of 14 major foods climbed an average of 35.6 per cent in 1984. Vegetable prices alone rose 65 per cent.

Tin talks fail to agree on quick solution to crisis

LONDON (R) — Members of the International Tin Council (ITC) Friday adjourned their emergency meeting after spending two days trying to solve the cash crisis which has reduced global tin trading to a trickle.

Delegates said an ITC working party would contact the council's creditors and the London Metal Exchange (LME) before the meeting resumes next Wednesday, in a bid to clear hurdles blocking an overall solution.

The delegates have been pondering terms of a \$900 million (\$13 billion) refinancing package proposed by the body's 16 creditors which would rescue the ITC and allow a resumption of tin trading without a major price collapse.

The LME, centre of the world tin trade, halted tin dealings on Oct. 24 when the ITC said it had run out of cash to continue propping up prices in the glutted market.

The creditors, with millions of dollars at stake in the troubled industry, have made the cash offer conditional on guarantees from the central banks of the 22 tin producing and consuming countries which made up the ITC.

As the deliberations continued, Standard Chartered Bank, one of the 16 financial institutions, offered a separate \$552 million (\$794 million) loan to help the ITC meet existing tin purchase debts.

Standard Chartered Bank Senior Vice Chairman Peter Graham said a bridging loan was needed to help trading while the creditors' offer was being discussed.

He also said individual creditor banks of the ITC would definitively declare the council in default if necessary.

Mr. Graham said the insolvent ITC had not settled interest payments with some of the banks and they had been advised that for their own protection they should give notice of default.

Standard Chartered believed the only acceptable solution was for ITC member governments to make a financial commitment to the loans, he added.

So far only the British government has publicly said it is prepared to pay its share of the debts, estimated at almost £1 billion.

The LME said Thursday it had been informed through banking and diplomatic channels that other states were willing to accept responsibility for their obligations.

Kuwaiti minister does not exclude oil price dropping to \$15 a barrel

KUWAIT (Agencies). — Kuwait's Oil Minister Ali Khalifa Al Sabah was quoted Saturday as saying that the situation on the world oil market was deteriorating and that he did not exclude a drop in prices to \$15 a barrel.

Sheikh Ali, in an interview with the newspaper *Al Rai* Al Am, also threw cold water on prospects of increasing oil production quotas demanded by a number of member-states when the ministerial council of the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) convenes in December.

"There are strong pressures from OPEC member-states to increase their quotas ... the situation is deteriorating because world demand on OPEC crude oil is dropping and retreating in view of rising production by non-OPEC countries," he said.

However, he expressed hope that the December meeting will lead to a "formula for prices and production to which member states will adhere," he did not elaborate.

Warning of the potential sharp drop in the price of crude oil, Sheikh Ali expressed the belief that efforts would be exerted to firm it up because severe drops would have adverse effects on the oil industry "and restrict investments in the oil sector."

"If investments in the oil sector are withheld, this will lead to a decrease in oil supplies and an accompanying sharp rise in prices," and that is why I do not expect a drop in oil prices to a low of 15," he added.

Sheikh Ali said Kuwait's oil reserves have a span of over 200 years, but he did not give a direct estimate. The Gulf country's oil reserves have previously been assessed in the oil industry circles at 72 billion barrels.

Strong oil prices may be short lived, analysts say

Meanwhile, demand from refiners low on stocks pushed North Sea oil above \$30 a barrel for the first time in 17 months on the spot

market last week, but oil analysts say overproduction still threatens to weigh on prices.

Refiners have held off building up their crude oil stocks for the winter in the hope of a price cut by OPEC when it meets in Geneva on Dec. 7, analysts said.

But a spell of cold weather in Europe and strong demand for gasoline in the United States has forced them to enter the market, pushing prices higher, the analysts said.

"Refiners are living from hand to mouth, trading cargo by cargo," said Mr. Malcolm Brown, of stockbrokers Grieson and Grant.

"Nobody wants to buy stock when prices might be coming down in three weeks time," he said, referring to the OPEC conference.

The low level of stocks was underlined by a report by the American Petroleum Institute (API) on Wednesday showing heavy and unexpected falls in U.S. stocks of crude oil and products.

The report helped push North Sea Brent crude for December delivery up to around \$30.35 a barrel on the spot market Thursday, although prices fell back slightly to around \$29.80 Friday in what traders saw as a technical correction.

The last time spot North Sea crude traded at over \$30 a barrel was in June 1984. Crude prices have been weak in recent years because of a world surplus of oil.

Mr. Mike Unsworth, an analyst with London stockbrokers Scott Giff Layton, said prices were firm because of a short-term supply squeeze. But with OPEC oil output rising strongly, the market would be hit by oversupply next year unless refiners built up their stocks.

"Unless the industry decides to restock, we feel there are going to be problems next year," he said.

OPEC crude oil production rose sharply to 17 million barrels per day (b/d) in October from 15.2 million b/d a month earlier, the International Energy Agency said last week.

Mr. Jeremy Elden, an analyst with stockbrokers Phillips and Drew, said people who had run down oil stocks rushed to cover short positions when the API report was released this week.

But he believed there would now be the downward pressure on prices.

"There is no particular reason for the underlying weakness in the market to disappear," he said.

Egyptians start to give money to help repay debt

CAIRO (R) — Small note by small note, Egyptians are responding to President Hosni Mubarak's call for personal donations to help settle the country's foreign debt.

Mr. Mubarak told his 49 million compatriots in a televised speech on Wednesday, "I am asking every honest citizen to contribute to settling Egypt's debts, the problems cannot be solved without full popular participation."

Within 24 hours, staff at the ministries of economy and foreign affairs had pledged to contribute to settling the debt, estimated by Western economic experts at \$31 billion.

The foreign ministry said its staffers in Cairo were donating three days' pay while Egyptian diplomatic corps abroad would give an undisclosed percentage of their monthly salaries in badly-needed hard currency.

Employees at the economy ministry said they would donate 10 per cent of their November salaries.

Newspapers announced details of four bank accounts, in local and foreign currencies, opened by the government for contributions not only towards paying off the debts but also to help subsidise basic commodities.

The government will spend \$2.4 billion in 1985/86 to subsidise basic commodities like bread, electricity and petrol — much more than the economic aid it receives from the United States. Its main donor.

In his speech opening a new session of parliament, Mr. Mubarak sounded alarm bells over suffering hard-earned earnings from oil remittances by Egyptians working abroad and the Egyptian Canal.

Egyptians interviewed Thursday on state-run television said they agreed with Mr. Mubarak that they must work harder, export more and try and settle the debt problem.

"We can do it if we rely on ourselves," said a young woman in a typical comment.

Egypt, the most populous Arab country, imports 50 per cent of its food. Last year it brought in goods worth \$9 billion against exports of \$4 billion. Mr. Mubarak said the population increases by one million every nine months.

He called especially for government measures to encourage expatriate workers to transfer more of their savings home through official channels, rather than through the black market or "unrealistic investments."

Only last August, Economy Minister Sultan Abi Ali, saying the situation was not that serious, rejected a proposal by a conference of Egyptians working abroad that the government should start a fund-raising campaign.

Rabat fears slump in farm exports to Europe

RABAT (R) — Six weeks before Spain and Portugal join the European Community (EC), Morocco has told visiting EC Commissioner Frans Andriessen it was worried about the future of its farm exports. Community sources said Saturday.

They said Moroccan Prime Minister Mohammed Karim Lamrani had asked Mr. Andriessen, who is in charge of agriculture and fisheries at the Brussels Commission, to convey his fears ahead of a vital European Council of Ministers meeting later this month.

Morocco, where 55 per cent of the population lives off agriculture, fears its farm exports to the EC, especially oranges and fresh vegetables, will face increased competition when Spain and Portugal join the 10-nation bloc on Jan. 1.

Mr. Andriessen, on a four-day official visit, told a news conference Friday night he had not come to negotiate but to listen to Morocco's point of view and clarify things.

Morocco's fears are based on guidelines, still not formally finalised, agreed by an informal European Council of Ministers on Oct. 26.

Rabat has told Mr. Andriessen that it was not ready to negotiate with the EC on the basis of these guidelines.

Mr. Andriessen said he thought Morocco's position was premature.

"It is the European Council of

Ministers was to take a decision unusable for Morocco," he would face a serious situation," he said. But he added he was optimistic realism would prevail.

Italy, supported by Greece, is reluctant to grant facilities to Mediterranean countries and argues that other Community members, especially from northern Europe, should shoulder some of the burden in the form of financial compensations.

Mr. Andreessen said Italy had a case to argue. Due to the EC's preferential treatment of Mediterranean farm products, Italy had been penalised by U.S. reprisal measures against pasta, he said.

Italy also had more to fear than others from increased competition from Spanish and Portuguese products such as wine and olive oil, he added.

From Jan. 1, the Brussels Commission will manage the 1983 fishing agreement between Spain and Morocco, allowing Spain to fish in Moroccan waters. It expires in 1987.

Mr. Andreessen said Morocco was linking the fishing issue with other topics. But he said one could imagine that progress on fisheries could help advance the other questions.

"I expect the European Council of Ministers to adopt a reasonable position and that in that case the Moroccan government will be ready to negotiate on reasonable grounds," he concluded.

International borrowings surge in October

PARIS (R) — International borrowing rose sharply in October, all but assuming that 1985's figures' will be well up on the previous two years, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said in a report Friday.

Spurred by easier interest rates, borrowings in October rose to \$28 billion, an increase of \$8.5 billion over both September's level and that of October 1984.

The United States was by far the largest single borrower, raising some \$12.7 billion in international markets.

But five other OECD countries, Japan (\$2.2 billion), Britain (\$2.1 billion), France (\$1.4 billion), Australia (\$1.3 billion) and Canada (\$1.1 billion) all raised more

than \$1 billion during the month, the OECD said.

External bond offerings surged to a record \$17.2 billion in October, some \$500 million above the previous monthly high set last May.

Borrowing on credit markets rose to \$10.8 billion from \$6.3 billion in September, which was regarded as a sluggish month.

Gross borrowings in the first 10 months of 1985 ran at an annual rate of \$244 billion, against \$196 billion in 1984 and \$154 billion in 1983.

The 10-month bond total of \$166 billion was 50 per cent higher than the same period a year earlier, the OECD said.

Britain's inflation rate drops

LONDON (R) Cheaper petrol helped Britain's annual inflation rate to drop to 5.4 per cent last month, a continuation of a downward trend that began in June, the *Financial Times* said Friday.

The fall from 5.9 per cent in September meant that the retail price index, the best guide to price fluctuations, was at its lowest level since February, when it also stood at 5.4 per cent.

Falling petrol prices offset rises in the cost of beer and clothing, according to official figures.

Employment Minister Kenneth Clarke welcomed the fall, saying it supported the government's view that the inflation rate would fall from around 5.5 per cent at the end of this year to around 3.7 per cent by the end of next year.

U.S. wholesale prices rise

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. wholesale prices made their biggest jump in four years in October, rising by nine-tenths of one percent, while factory production was flat, the government said Friday.

The biggest increase in the price measure since a one percent rise in April 1981, but economists doubted that severe inflation was threatened.

A major contributor was higher prices for new models of cars following deep discounts for last year's models offered by manufacturers seeking to clear out inventories. Food prices also increased but energy prices fell.

In a separate report, the Federal Reserve Board said that the output was unchanged after falling 0.1 percent in September.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, NOV. 17, 1956
GENERAL TENDENCIES: Until mid-afternoon your judgment is poor and it would be wise to not make any decisions that require chance. Later you will have the chance to show your ability at whatever is unique.

ARIES (Mar. 20 to Apr. 19) Not the right day to start on any big plan of action to gain your wishes. In the evening you will get help from close friends.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) An argument in the morning between a bigwig and a lesser-known should be entered into if then you can add to your prestige.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Don't get into any strange kind of work; plan the new week's activities wisely instead. Be happy at home.

SCORPIO CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Study how you can make your recreational activities less expensive during the day. Do whatever your mate desires.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) The evening is the best time to have a talk with a clever partner and get right results. Fit on a far better working plan.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) The evening is best for considering how to do a better job at your regular work, since you may be confused during the day.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Plan recreation for the evening with congenials and you can have a very happy time together.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Don't force any issues at home during the daytime or a big quarrel can arise, and then the evening can be very harmonious.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) A secret worry can deter you from accomplishing much during the day, so permit. Sit down with associates in the evening.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You may spend some idle with a friend in the morning, but then get down to practical concerns.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Daytime is not good for making any important commitments, but the evening lends itself nicely for being with the influential.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You can get the secret data that will assist you in gaining your finest personal wishes. Forget limiting thoughts.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will have much ability and upon reaching adulthood can fit right into the modern way of life and become very successful. During early youth, teach to obey every rule and regulation that applies to him or her, otherwise your progeny could get into trouble easily if acting on impulse.

THE Daily Crossword by Wilson McBeath

ACROSS

One of the musicals **Ba**
Colapau —
Church desk
Diss —
First name
in **least**
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Cavie —
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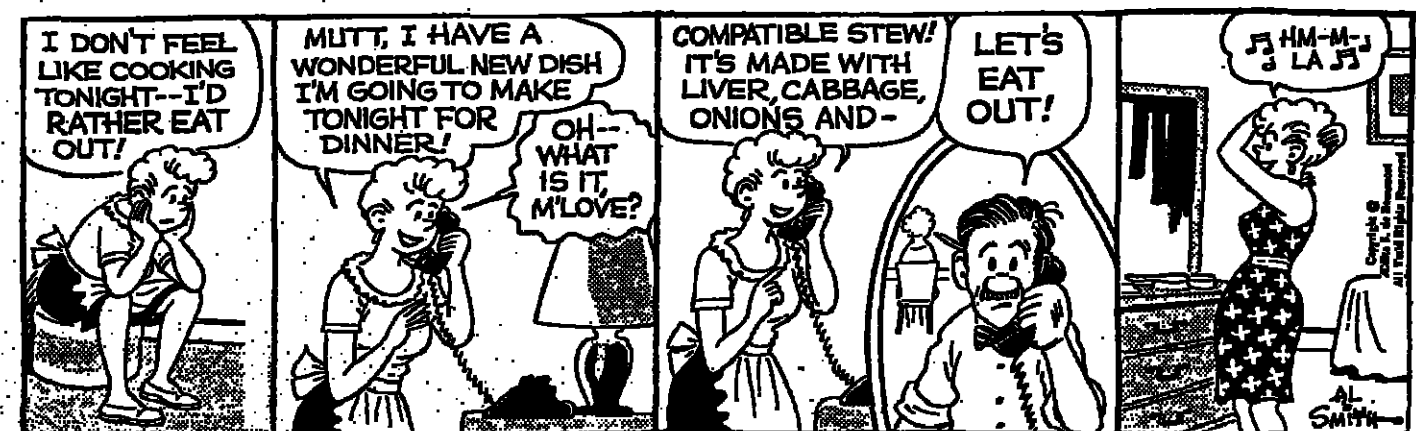
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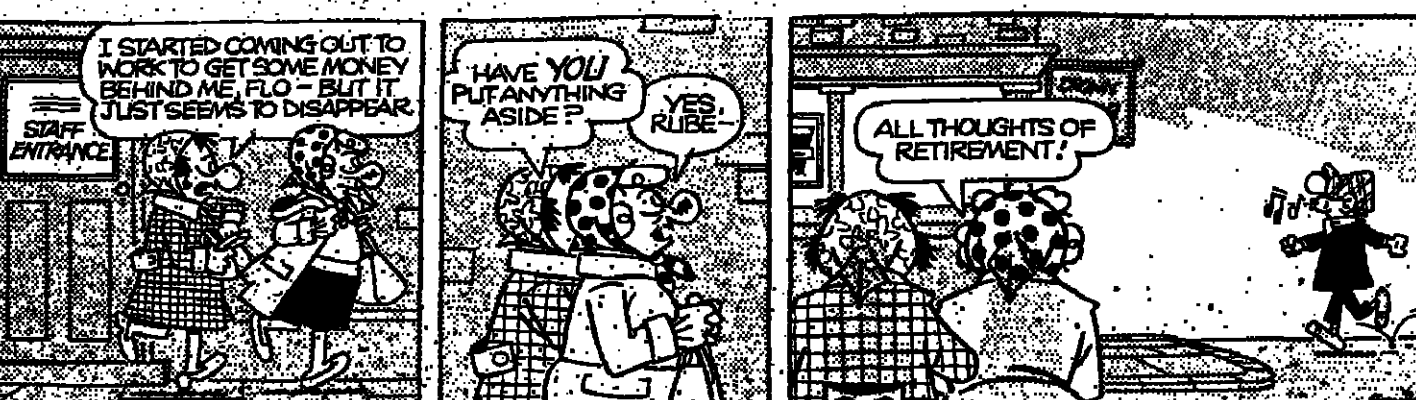
Peanuts



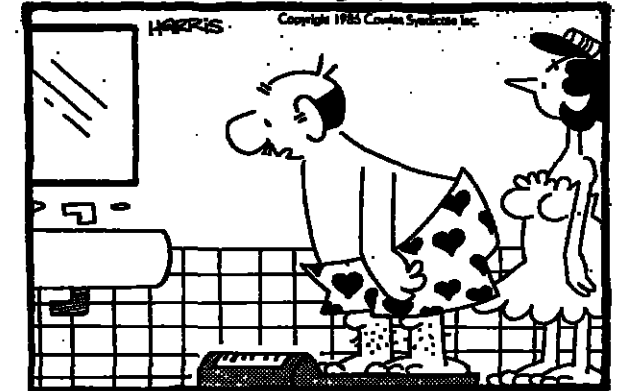
Mutt 'n' Jeff



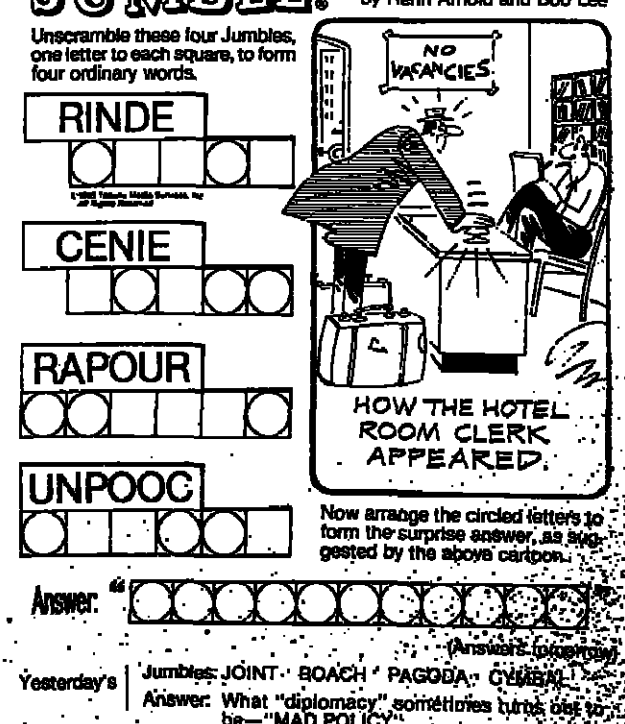
Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



Belfast residents greet new deal with scepticism

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (Agencies) — In a city where a wall divides Protestants and Roman Catholics and where armed soldiers, security checks and barbed-wire barricades are part of daily life, residents greeted a new deal on Ulster with cynicism and fury.

On Friday, Prime Ministers Margaret Thatcher of Britain and Garret Fitzgerald of Ireland signed the agreement designed to bring peace and stability to the strife-torn British-ruled province by giving the Irish government a limited role in running it.

Protestant loyalists attacked the deal as a sell-out of their British heritage Catholics, who were meant to benefit from the historic accord, doubted it would improve their status in the majority Protestant society.

"I don't see any chance for progress now. It's become too late," said a middle-aged Catholic woman who would not be identified.

"Nothing will come of it. It's a total waste of time," said a young Catholic student who also wished to remain anonymous.

"I can't see it making a difference to my life as I've been unemployed for 15 years, and if it is going to give me a job, I will agree with it," said Catholic Jim Smith.

Catholic Tommy Hammel said the new deal "may only inflame the loyalist paramilitaries who may think their way of life is threatened by his accord."

The only change will be a reaction from loyalist paramilitaries, who will be shooting innocent people," said Catholic taxi driver Billy Donnelly, who said he was a former member of Sinn Féin, the political wing of the outlawed Irish Republican Army.

Patrick McBride, spokesman for a Sinn Féin Social Club, said the only acceptable option would be "disbanding the Royal Ulster Constabulary, Northern Ireland's police force, and the Ulster Defence Regiment, the locally recruited force of the British army."

Both organisations are seen by Catholic militants as a tool of British repression in the province.

In the staunchly Protestant areas, pro-British loyalists warned of possible violent repercussions in their fight against the agreement.

"It will only promote more bloodshed and violence in the north because if we cannot overturn this deal constitutionally, we will not hesitate to take physical means to overthrow it, including force of arms if necessary," said loyalist militant John Brown.

Newspapers in Northern Ireland split along predictable lines Saturday in editorial reaction to the London-Dublin pact.

The deal was splashed across front pages in Britain, Ireland and the divided North.

In Belfast, the Irish News, speaking for the Catholic minority in the province, praised the accord. The Protestant Belfast Newsletter denounced it.

"No one would claim that the document in itself is a solution but it is a brave and commendable attempt to begin the healing process," said the Irish News, urging all politicians to make the accord work.

But the Newsletter was fiercely antagonistic. "The loyalist people must have nothing to do with the agreement," it said.

"Such a hotch-potch of intrigue, double-dealing, skulduggery and downright deceit could only have been devised by men with warped, twisted minds."

In Dublin, the liberal Irish Times said the agreement could be "a new beginning for all who live in the Northern state." It described Protestant leaders who were determined to maintain the union with Britain as veritable

outcasts, adding: "Ronald Reagan, the Republican president of the United States, welcomed the move. So did Tip O'Neill, the Democrat. Voices of approval came from many parts of the world."

"It should be said again to the unionists: This is your country. Settle down with the rest of us. What seemed to be a modest enough step may yet be looked back to as the day everything started to fall into place."

The Irish Independent, which normally supports Mr. Fitzgerald's coalition government, said the agreement was historic and called on all shades of opinion to support and understand it.

"It occupies the middle ground in which peace and reconciliation will be recovered," the Independent said in a front-page editorial.

The Irish Press, which supports the opposition Fianna Fail, took a more favourable view than party leader Charles Haughey, who said the agreement abandoned the Irish national aim of unification.

"It will be an advance for the whole island if the unionist backlash threat is at least confronted and put down. It will be an advance if the agreement is genuinely used as a stepping stone," the Irish Press said.

In London, the conservative Daily Telegraph described the pact as "an extraordinarily dangerous document."

But it added, "let us remember one of the chief aims: It is to convince the world (particularly the United States and our European allies) that London and Dublin are equally opposed to the Irish Republican Army and that what is going on in Ulster is not just the death agony of British imperialism."

The liberal Guardian said that for the majority Protestants, the agreement was a body blow "to a series of assumptions they have made about the seclusion of their province from the realities of Irish nationalism."

Flood toll reaches 146 in India

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — The death toll rose to 146 Saturday from more than a week of heavy rains and flooding in the southernmost state of Tamil Nadu, the United News of India reported.

At least 26 more deaths were reported from flood-battered districts, the news agency said.

Police recovered the bodies of 10 more passengers of a bus washed away by the surging flood waters Tuesday, UNI said. Sixty-five bodies were reported found earlier. The accident was reported two days later by a passenger who swam to safety.

Press Trust of India, another private news agency, put the death toll in Tamil Nadu at 256, including 120 people feared killed when a village was washed away by flash floods. There was no independent confirmation of the report.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi said a federal government team would be sent to study the flood damage.

More than 112,000 hectares (276,640 acres) of crops have been damaged or destroyed by the rains and floods, which also have disrupted rail and road transport.

Meanwhile, a new storm, developing in the Bay of Bengal was likely to intensify and hit neighbouring Andhra Pradesh state, the Cyclone Warning Centre said. Widespread rains were forecast in the area Sunday.

Troops, aircraft and ships hunted for survivors. More than 300,000 people have been made homeless and many have taken shelter in hastily-erected refugee camps on high ground.

PIT said Friday the death toll shot up to 250 when an entire Tamil Nadu village was swept away by floodwaters.

The Indian army, navy and coast-guard are struggling to find marooned villagers and city dwellers stranded by floodwaters.

"The rains have stopped but we are now concerned with setting up camps for people made homeless by the floods," a police spokesman said Friday in Madras, the state capital.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi flew over flooded cities and farms Friday and said it was too early to estimate the full scale of the disaster.

Among people evacuated from their homes was Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.G. Ramachandran.

1 dies; blast shakes ice rink in continued South African protests

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A black man was stabbed and burnt to death, two others were shot and badly wounded by police, and a bomb blast shook an ice rink in a white town in a night of violence in South Africa.

Police confirmed Saturday that an explosion at an entertainment centre in Welkom, 200 kilometres south of Johannesburg, Friday night was caused by a bomb. No one was hurt.

Police said they were investigating the possibility that the bomb was aimed at the ice rink's management, rather than at an Australian rebel cricket side which is staying in the town.

The side's tour is opposed by the Australian government and by groups campaigning against South Africa's apartheid race laws, who say the cricketers should not have come amid black protests.

The explosives used in the ice rink blast were probably of a commercial type used in gold mines, police said.

At Hoffmeir in the eastern Cape, police said a man of 63 was Friday night dragged from his home, stabbed to death and his body set alight, a fate usually reserved for those seen as collaborators with apartheid.

Two black men were badly hurt when police fired on a crowd stoning their vehicle in Cathcart, in the same region.

Black youths rampaged Friday along a railway line, stoning a train and railway lorries, in the centre of a township near Cape Town zoned for people classified as coloured (mixed-race), police said.

The South African Press Association said that at least four people, including a pregnant woman, were hurt, as about 300

youths ran in protest in Mitchell's Plain.

It quoted an eyewitness as saying: "There was chaos... people were running for cover, they were scared."

A policeman's wife was hurt when their home was set alight by a hand grenade attack in Bellville coloured township, near Mitchell's Plain, and a black driver was hurt when his car was stoned in an eastern Cape township, police said.

They reported stoning and petrol bomb attacks on homes, government buildings and cars overnight in Johannesburg's black satellite city of Soweto and in the eastern and western Cape.

A black youth died in hospital in the eastern Cape Friday, two days after being shot in a clash with police, and a man was shot dead in the white Natal town of Howick as a policeman, caught up in a fight between two groups of youths, fired his pistol, police said.

In Johannesburg, black nationalist leader Winnie Mandela was defying a banishment order Saturday by refusing to return to the remote Orange Free State township to which she was exiled in 1977. Her lawyer said she was at his office here.

Mrs. Mandela, wife of jailed African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela, has not yet decided whether she will try to go Saturday to Cape Town where her husband is recovering from prostate gland surgery, lawyer Ismail Ayob told Reuters.

U.S., U.K. veto sanctions

Meanwhile at the United Nations the United States and Britain

Friday night vetoed a Security Council resolution imposing mandatory sanctions against South Africa for refusing to implement a U.N. independence plan for Namibia (South West Africa).

The vote in the 15-member council was 12 in favour and two against, with France abstaining.

The council last June imposed a range of voluntary sanctions against Pretoria and warned of further measures, including mandatory sanctions, if it continued to block a 1978 U.N. plan to bring independence to the vast but sparsely-populated territory of Namibia.

South Africa says it will not go ahead with the independence plan until some 30,000 Cuban troops stationed in Angola are withdrawn from Namibia's Marxist-ruled northern neighbour.

The latest round of Council debate was initiated by African and non-aligned nations seeking to step up the pressure on Pretoria.

The resolution was sponsored by the Council's six non-aligned members: Burkina Faso, Egypt, India, Madagascar, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago.

Also voting in favour of it were: Australia, China, Denmark, Soviet Union, Thailand and Ukraine.

While the U.S. and Britain were willing to see existing voluntary sanctions broadened, they balked at imposing mandatory measures under the enforcement provisions of Chapter VII of the U.N. Charter.

These were last invoked in 1977 to place a mandatory ban on the export of arms to South Africa, because of its racial policies and actions affecting Namibia and neighbouring African countries.

COLUMBIA

Banks robbed 49 times in w. Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — Bank robbers have struck 49 times in west Beirut this year, getting away with more than 14 million Lebanese pounds (\$800,000), the An-Nahar daily reported Saturday. Armed hold-ups have become increasingly frequent in the western sector of the capital this year following a collapse in the international value of the pound and a steep rise in inflation.

Zimbabwe bans crocodile hunting

HARARE (R) — Zimbabwe has banned the hunting of crocodiles or the removal of their eggs with immediate effect. The official government gazette has said the ban would last for five years and special permits issued by wildlife authorities would be required for exceptions. No reason was given for the ban. Crocodiles are abundant in the northern Zambezi River basin and there are a number of crocodile farms along the river and Lake Kariba.

French police to lose their Kepi

PARIS (R) — French police are to lose their traditional peaked white cap the Kepi, their trademark since the days of Napoleon. Officials said the Kepi caused problems — it fell off when police scrambled in and out of cars in pursuit of criminals. The new aviator-style cap has been designed by Pierre Balmain as part of Interior Minister Pierre Joxe's five-billion franc (\$450 million) plan to modernise the police. The Kepi will continue to be worn by country police but reserved in Paris for special occasions, officials said.

Baroque statue accidentally broken

LONDON (AP) — A 335-year-old statue, a Baroque-period treasure worth an estimated £1 million (\$1.4 million), has been broken in an accident at London's Victoria and Albert Museum. Red-faced museum officials said they are trying to discover how the mishap occurred. But the London Times said Saturday it is believed that a workman's ladder slipped as he was carrying out repair work in one of the galleries, sending the statue toppling from its plinth to the floor. The museum was closed to the public during the repair work. The statue, a Terracotta bust of Roman Catholic Cardinal Paolo Emilio Zacchia, was sculpted in 1650 by Alessandro Algardi from Bologna in northern Italy. It was broken at the neck and smashed into several pieces.

U.S. considering aspirin warning

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. government is considering a regulation, already accepted by the aspirin industry, to require warning labels about the possible link between the pain reliever and the childhood disease Reye Syndrome. Health and Human Services Secretary Margaret M. Heckler is reviewing the proposed rule and should make a decision early next week on whether the Food and Drug Administration will implement it, said her chief of staff, C. McClain Haddow. The regulation could help settle the debate over whether enough is being done to protect children and teenagers from Reye Syndrome, an extremely rare but often fatal disease that strikes after chicken pox or flu. Reye Syndrome is characterized by a sudden onset of severe vomiting, often with fever, and can progress rapidly to convulsions and coma.

Stuntman swings from bridge, goes to jail

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — Steve Trotter celebrated his 23rd birthday in jail after descending a rope hung from Golden Gate Bridge and unfurling a banner wishing President Reagan good luck at next week's Geneva summit. Trotter, unable to climb back up the rope, dropped 20 metres into San Francisco Bay where he was picked up by a Coast guard boat. He was treated for rope burns, then taken to jail. Authorities booked him on charges of conspiracy to commit a felony and trespassing on a bridge. He was being held at San Francisco City Jail in lieu of \$3,000 bail.

Doe accuses opposition of links with plotters

ABIDJAN (R) — Military leader Samuel Doe has accused Liberia's main opposition party of having links with Tuesday's failed coup.

Mr. Doe told a press conference in Monrovia Friday night that coup leader Brig.-Gen. Thomas Juiwonka, who was found and shot by loyal troops Friday, had promised to hand power to the Liberian Action Party (LAP).

Mr. Doe's accusation was reported by a private Liberian radio station and monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

Mr. Doe, who drove in triumph Friday to see the bullet-riddled corpse of his rival on public show, said the coup attempt was really an invasion and that "devil forces" had brought foreigners into the country to fight against Liberia.

The LAP offices in Monrovia were burned down by Mr. Doe's troops in the wake of Tuesday's coup attempt. Residents of the Liberian capital, contacted from the neighbouring Ivory Coast, said party leaders, including the candidate who stood against Mr. Doe in last month's presidential election, have been arrested.

The U.S. State Department Friday expressed concern over reports — which it said were not confirmed — that presidential candidate Jackson Doe and LAP senator-elect Ellen Johnson-

Sirleaf had been summarily shot. A jubilant Doe, holding a rifle, was cheered as he was driven in an open motorcar to the main military barracks in the capital Monrovia where the body of Gen. Juiwonka was on public display Friday.

According to Liberian radio broadcasts Gen. Juiwonka, a fugitive since the failure of Tuesday's coup, was shot dead Friday by one of Mr. Doe's bodyguards who found him hiding 12 kilometres from the capital on the main road to the airport.

Mr. Doe said in a radio broadcast that people had nothing to fear providing they did not harbour rebels still at large. He added that anyone found on the streets after dusk would be shot.

He said a lot of people had been killed and property destroyed. Eye-witnesses reported seeing truckloads of bodies being ferried across Monrovia as well as looting by soldiers.

Local radios broadcast summons to opposition politicians to report to the executive mansion, the country's seat of government.

Residents in Monrovia, contacted from neighbouring Ivory Coast, quoted reliable sources as saying two presidential candidates in last month's general election — Jackson Doe and Edward Kessely — had already been detained.

Moscow to allow American spouses to emigrate

WASHINGTON (R) — The Kremlin, in an apparent pre-summit gesture, told U.S. officials it plans to allow eight Soviet citizens married to Americans, and two other individuals to leave the Soviet Union, the State Department has said.

U.S. officials have "received indications" from Moscow that exit visas will be granted to the eight Soviet spouses, a separated family member and a person with dual citizenship, State Department Spokesman Bruce Ammann said.

"If these cases are indeed resolved as a result of Soviet assurances we would view this as a welcome step," he said.

News of the Soviet decision was delivered to Secretary of State George Shultz by Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin. ABC news reported.

"We have repeatedly made clear to the Soviets the importance of human rights to bilateral relationship and we will continue to press them to resolve the remaining cases so that this problem in our relations can be removed," Mr. Ammann said.

While the department did not name the spouses or say when they would be granted visas, a spokesman for Senator Paul Simon said nine spouses would be allowed to leave immediately.

"Our understanding is that these nine are free to leave as soon as they wrap up their affairs — as soon as they want," Sen. Simon's press secretary, David Carle, told Reuters.

Sen. Simon, who has worked for several months to re-unite American-Soviet couples, learned of the Soviet decision to allow the spouses to emigrate to the United States from one of the U.S. spouses involved, Mr. Carle said.

Moscow's move to resolve the divided couples problem, which has received widespread publicity in the United States, comes four days before the Geneva summit meeting between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

"I think it is public relations for the summit," Sen. Simon said in a television interview on Cable News Network.

"It's not the same thing as an arms control agreement or anything like that in terms of long-term substance, but it is great news for these nine families and these small gestures do make a difference," he said.

14,000 flee Argentine floods

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Flood waters swept across the Argentine pampas, drowning six people and forcing 14,000 to flee their homes to high ground, civil defence officials have said.

Heavy rains in southwestern Buenos Aires province fed a chain of lagoons in low-lying areas that have overflowed in recent days, cutting several main roads and surrounding towns. More than 1.5 million hectares (600,000 acres) are under water.

Provincial Agrarian Affairs Minister Carlos Valera said the floods had caused nearly a billion dollars worth of damage, but farming sources reported little damage to crops and livestock.

LONDON (R) — Seventy Red Cross workers were among 20,000 people killed by Wednesday's volcano eruption in Colombia, according to an official quoted by the British Independent Television News Organisation.

ITN quoted George Reed, Red Cross relief coordinator for Colombia, as saying they were in a radio station engulfed by mud. Reed, speaking from Red Cross headquarters in Geneva, said 11 workers survived and started relief work immediately.

Governments and relief organisations swung into action Friday sending money, supplies and medical teams to help survivors of Wednesday's volcano eruption in Colombia that killed at least 20,000 people. In Europe, the League of Red Cross Societies and the European Community (EC) were coordinating contributions from member countries.

The Red Cross said about \$700,000 had been contributed. The League, which gave \$46,000, said money, tents and blankets were urgently needed and it would launch an international appeal for aid.

A League official said Britain, Japan, West Germany and Switzerland were sending tents and blankets.

The European Community announced a \$400,000 relief package and said a plane carrying a medical team from the French aid organisation Medicins Sans Frontières was leaving Brussels Fri-

day.

Colombian officials estimate that 20,000 people were killed and 25,000 hurt when the Nevado del Ruiz volcano erupted, burying the town of Armero but said the total might never be known.

Among individual countries, the Netherlands said it was giving \$670,000 and West Germany pledged \$192,000.

The Dutch Foreign Ministry said about half of its donation was for immediate relief aid and the rest for reconstruction.

The West German Foreign Ministry said an air force plane would leave for Colombia on Monday carrying essential supplies.

In France, a crisis unit was set up to coordinate aid under Social Affairs Minister Georges Dufoix and state television appealed for private donations.

French Minister for the Prevention of Disasters Haroun Tazieff, who is the country's leading volcanologist, said he would go to Colombia Saturday to assess the danger of further eruptions.

Spanish Health Minister Ernesto Luch said 15 tonnes of first aid material would leave Madrid Friday and a second plane carrying blood plasma, tents, blankets, generators and a rescue team would take off later.

Colombia's neighbour Peru was sending 18 tonnes of medicine and clothes.

The United States, which is already providing 12 helicopters to help in the search for survivors,

said it was sending three plane-loads of equipment and supplies from bases in Panama.

Officials at the U.S. Agency for International Development said the first plane, carrying support equipment for the helicopters, had arrived and the other two carrying 500 tents and 4,500 blankets were expected in Colombia soon.

Britain said it was sending two military helicopters from its garrison in Belize to help to rescue victims of the disaster. They were expected to arrive in Colombia on Sunday.

The British government said it had also authorised its ambassador in Bogota to spend up to \$350,000 locally on relief equipment such as electric generators.

In Vienna, the Austrian Foreign Ministry said it was contributing two million schillings (about \$110,000) to help survivors.

An Austrian-based private organisation called SOS Children's Village also announced that its orphanage in Bogota was prepared to take in children stranded by the tragedy. A special relief team was on its way to Armero.

The wife of President Francois Mitterrand will fly to Colombia on Sunday with French aid for survivors of Wednesday's volcano eruption, Colombian Foreign Minister Octavio Ramirez Ocampo said Friday.

Mr. Ramirez Ocampo met Mr. Mitterrand Friday to discuss the eruption of the volcano.

The French leader and his wife Danielle visited Colombia last month.

The destruction of the Colombian town of Armero recalls one of the most famous volcanic eruptions in history — that of Mount Vesuvius which buried the ancient Roman cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum in 79 A.D.

The Vesuvius eruption, which lasted for several days in late August of that year, poured a layer of ash and cinders some six to seven metres deep on to Pompeii and swamped Herculaneum in molten lava.

At least 2,000 people are believed to have died in Pompeii, a flourishing and wealthy town of some 25,000 inhabitants near Naples. Most citizens of the much smaller Herculaneum appear to have escaped in time.

The cataclysm was witnessed by the Latin writer Pliny The Younger from Cape Misenum at the northern end of the bay of Naples. His uncle, the science writer and naturalist Pliny The Elder, died while investigating the eruption.

The younger Pliny wrote in a letter to the historian Tacitus: "A cloud arose, its shape was like a pine-tree, the house swayed from frequent and violent earthquake shocks."

The eruption began with strong earthquake, and a thick layer of cinder covered the ground. Some inhabitants fled while others took cover indoors. Then came a second rain of cinders and lava which lasted all day and completely buried the towns.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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A HELPING HAND ON DEFENSE

Both vulnerable, South deals.

NORTH
♠ 10 6 3
♥ A 7 6 3
♦ K 7
♣ 8 7 5

EAST
♠ K J
♥ K 10 8 2
♦ A Q J 4 3
♣ 10 9 8 2

SOUTH
♠ A 8 7 5 2
♥ 9 4
♦ 6 5
♣ A K J

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ 1 NT 2 ♦ Pass
Pass 2 ♠ 2 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♣.

Top-level partnerships in the U.S. are not noted for their longevity. An outstanding exception is that of Edgar Kaplan of New York and Norman Ray of Philadelphia, who have been playing together, and winning together, for more than a quarter of a century. Note their decision on this deal from the trials to select the U.S. team more years ago than we would care to mention. When North doubled his overall

of one no trump, Kaplan prudently selected the two diamonds — a contract that would have been made as the cards lie. North-South reached four spades in quick time and Kaplan got off to the good lead of the queen of hearts.

The defense was superlative. Declarer played low from dummy, and Kay overtook with the king of hearts to shift to a club. Declarer won the king and his problem was to avoid a loser in each suit — obviously, West was marked with the king of spades and queen of clubs for his overall. Declarer's plan was to strip the red suits from his hand and dummy, then throw West on lead with the king of trumps to force a ruff-club or a club lead into declarer's tenace.

Declarer led a low diamond, and Kaplan made a fine play when he inserted his jack. Dummy's king won and Kay signaled with the ten. The ace of hearts was cashed, a heart was ruffed and declarer then edited with a low diamond. Had West been forced to win this trick, the endplay would have succeeded. But because of his earlier ducking play he was now able to follow low on the diamond and allow his partner to win.

Another club from East set up the queen of clubs as the fourth trick for the defense.